

A History
— of —
Meade County
Kansas



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A History of Meade County, Kansas

By
FRANK S. SULLIVAN



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A History of Meade County, Kansas

FOREWORD.



IN presenting this History of Meade County to the public I am timidly conscious that it will meet the full approval of none. In the preparation of this work I have talked with five hundred people, and received five hundred suggestions as to what the book should contain. Being anxious to please, but realizing my inability to carry out the ideas of the many well-meaning people and confine the work to one volume, I have discarded much that is interesting, but it has been my intention to include all that is important or valuable.

The personal experience of every old settler would be interesting reading; the achievements of those who settled upon the frontier in the days "that tried men's souls," who battled with the elements, subdued the wilderness and made the desert fruitful, is a story worthy of the mightiest pen; the exploits of "Hoodoo" Brown, the activities of George DeCow, the eccentricities of Pat Mulligan, the unconscious humor of Pete Hotz, the martial dignity of Captain Osgood, and the characteristics, freaks and foibles of many others who might be mentioned, would, if properly preserved, afford a source of never-ending amusement and entertainment; but it would not be history.

The inside history of county politics as the game was played in former days, the plans and schemes, the plots and counter plots, the maneuvers by which tricks were

taken and lost, would read like a story by George Randolph Chester, but I could not go into these matters without violating the confidence of such eminently good fellows as Bob Painter, Doug Adams, Fred Fick, Tom Johnston, Frank Fuhr, Mose Black, Fred Judd, et al., and the public would certainly not expect me to do that.

The history of Meade County reads almost like a fairy tale. Organized in 1885, the country was widely advertised and hailed as an El Dorado by people all over the East, who flocked here in great numbers, eager to secure homes in this modern Eden. Cities and towns sprang up as if by magic; railroads were surveyed, manufacturing establishments planned for, and in a few months the country had the appearance of an old-established community. But, alas for the good of the country! so many who settled here were not the kind to develop a new country. They came mostly from the old-settled States of the East, and knew nothing of the hardships incident to pioneer life. They became dissatisfied as soon as the novelty of the situation wore away, and longed for their Eastern homes. To get away was no difficult matter; the entire country was enjoying an era of prosperity, money was easy to obtain, and many, perhaps a majority of the homesteaders preëmpted their claims, mortgaged them the next day for from \$500 to \$1000, and left the country, better off financially than when they came. So many farms being deserted, business suffered and laxed for a time, depression ensued, and then came the fall, the awful, calamitous, tumultuous financial crash that buried under its ruins the wrecked hopes and shattered

ambitions of so many. Meade County was not alone in this crisis; the entire West was affected, and great was the havoc throughout all. But business adapted itself to changed conditions; business assurance was just being restored when occurred the memorable opening of Oklahoma. All eyes were now turned toward "The Land of the Fair God," and western Kansas was practically forgotten by the outside world. Meade County, being in such proximity to the Territory, suffered her proportionate loss of citizens. Nor was the lost population soon regained, as for years practically all emigration was toward the "Red Land."

Being deserted by the farmer, the country was naturally given over to the cattle-men, who for years held full sway, and gathered immense wealth from their herds. The thousands of acres of rich, succulent buffalo-grass fed thousands of cattle. The usual mild winters and light snows made it practicable for cattle to graze the entire winter and come out in good condition in the spring, having consumed little or no feed save that which Nature had so bountifully provided.

But in time the glitter and glare of Oklahoma vanished to a great extent. Land there, and elsewhere eastward, had advanced in value so that a poor man could not own his home; landlords became so exacting that tenants could not pay rent and live; the poor man commenced to look for a home, the man with money to look for investments. Western Kansas presented her smiling prairies to the world and attracted the attention of homeseekers and of investors. A few of the more venturesome came west, and those who visited Meade County viewed with wonder the rich soil, were

delighted with the climatic conditions, enjoyed the pure water, breathed the exhilarating, health-giving ozone, gazed with rapture on the transcendental beauty of the plains, and located here. They were eminently successful in tilling the soil, and accounts of their success written home caused friends to come, who in turn induced others to follow. This encroachment on the range was "viewed with alarm" by the cattle-men, who did all in their power to discourage immigration by circulating stories of the poverty of the soil, the uncertainty of crops by reason of insufficient rainfall, the terrors of tornadoes, and other named and nameless evils. But in spite of drouths, tornadoes, and evil reports, the settlers came on. The large ranches shrank away before the increasing tide of immigration, until finally "free range" was no more and the ranchman was forced to buy his range or go out of business; and finally, recognizing the futility of resistance, or realizing that they had been mistaken, the stock-men joined with the farmer in boosting the country, and they now work harmoniously together.

It is a singular fact that, in nearly every instance, the man who came to Meade County in the early days with money, lost it, while the man who came with nothing and was either too poor or too obstinate to leave, but remained through all the trials and vicissitudes, has amassed a competence. And it is to such men as these, such men as Farmer Bisbee, A. V. Angel, Lou Parsons, Ed Dahmer, Joe Brannon, R. T. Worman, Linn Frazier, Frank Sourbeer, and others of their ilk, that Meade County owes its present condition of development and prosperity.

The old order changeth. Where a few years ago could be seen, like the patriarch's herd, cattle on a thousand hills, now appear homes and schoolhouses and churches, and where once the seared buffalo-grass alone turned its bronzed bosom to the sky, smiling fields of waving wheat fling their banners to the heavens, and acres of verdant alfalfa greet the delighted eye, and render odorous, as with sweet incense, the surrounding air.

FRANK S. SULLIVAN.

Meade, Kansas, July, 1916.

A HISTORY OF MEADE COUNTY, KANSAS.

ACQUISITION.

IN the early days of discovery, exploration and settlement, three European nations, England, France, and Spain, claimed the territory out of which Meade County was finally carved. Basing its claims upon the explorations of the Cabots and others, in 1606 the English Crown granted to the London Company and to the Plymouth Company that vast area of land lying between the 34th and 45th parallels of latitude and extending from ocean to ocean. The English made no attempt to explore the country so far inland, and their claims upon this territory were early abandoned.

The claims of the French were more substantial. In 1673 Marquette explored a considerable portion of the Mississippi Valley; his explorations were continued and extended by LaSalle in 1682; in 1719 Dutisne explored a part of the interior, including a portion of the territory of the present State of Kansas; these explorations were continued in 1724 by DuBourgmont, who also entered and explored a part of Kansas. As a result of these various expeditions France claimed the territory which now comprises Meade County as a part of Louisiana.

The explorations of Spain were more thorough than those of France. In 1528 Narvaez explored a part of

the Mississippi Valley. These explorations were continued by Cabeça de Vaca, who had been an officer under Narvaez in 1734-36. De Vaca entered Kansas, passed entirely across the State from east to west, and possibly crossed Meade County. In 1541 Coronado, in his search for the fabled Quivira, crossed Meade County, possibly on his outbound trip, certainly on his return.

In 1762 France ceded Louisiana to Spain, but by the treaty of 1800 it was re-ceded to France, and by France ceded to the United States in 1803. However, the boundaries were not fully determined at that time, and in 1819 the United States ceded to Spain that part of Louisiana lying west of the 23rd meridian and south of the Arkansas river; so that what is now Meade County became an undisputed possession of Spain.

Upon Mexico gaining her independence from Spain in 1821 this territory passed from Spain to Mexico, and when in 1836 Texas acquired her independence it became a part of Texas. With the annexation of Texas in 1845 it became a part of the United States, but ownership remained in Texas until under the Omnibus Bill of 1850 it was ceded by Texas to the General Government, and became a part of Kansas under the Organic Act of 1854.

The Legislature of 1865 fixed the boundaries of Marion County to include the present territory of Meade County. In June of the same year Marion County was organized and its boundaries changed, excluding this territory, which remained unorganized and unattached until, in 1873, the Legislature created Meade County, named in honor of Gen. George G. Meade, and fixed its boundaries as follows: "Com-



A VIEW OF CROOKED CREEK.

mencing at the intersection of the east line of range twenty-seven west with the north line of township twenty-nine south; thence south along range line to its intersection with the south boundary line of the State of Kansas; thence west along said boundary line of the State of Kansas to a point where it is intersected by the east line of range thirty-one west; thence along north range line to where it intersects the north boundary line of township twenty-nine south; thence east to the place of beginning."

In 1881 Meade County was attached to Ford County for judicial purposes, until Meade County should be organized.

In 1883 the Legislature dissolved Meade County, attaching that part lying east of the east line of range twenty-nine to Ford County, and that part lying west of the east line of range twenty-nine to Seward County.

The Legislature of 1885 again established Meade County, with slightly different boundaries, which boundaries it has ever since retained, and are as follows: "Commencing at the intersection of the east line of range twenty-six west with the north line of township thirty; thence south along range line to its intersection with the south boundary line of the State of Kansas; thence west along said boundary line of the State of Kansas to a point where it is intersected by the east line of range thirty-one west; thence along range line to where it intersects the north boundary line of township thirty; thence east to place of beginning."

The same Legislature attached Meade County to Comanche County for judicial purposes, to which

county it remained attached until the formal organization of Meade County.

In 1885 a petition for organization was presented to Gov. John A. Martin. I. N. Graves was appointed census-taker. His return showed a population of 3507, of whom 1165 were householders.

Proclamation of organization was issued Nov. 4th, 1885; Meade Center was designated the temporary county seat, A. D. McDaniel temporary County Clerk, and L. S. Sears, H. L. Mullen and E. M. Mears as the temporary Board of County Commissioners. The election to choose a permanent county seat, and permanent officers for the first term, was held on January 5th, 1886.

During the campaign the question of the location of the county seat overshadowed everything else, and much enmity was created, especially between the partisans of Meade Center and of Carthage. The vote, which chose Meade Center as the permanent county seat, was as follows:

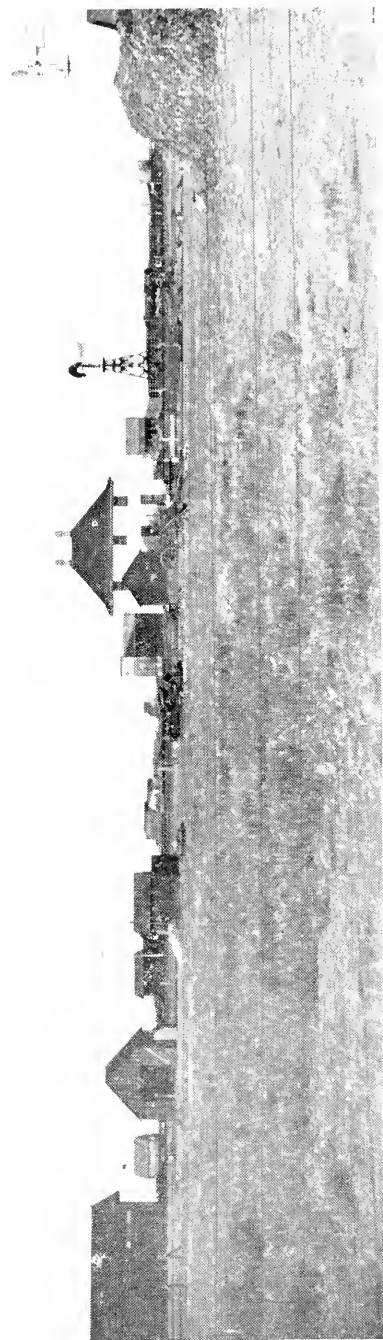
Meade Center.....	486	Mertilla.....	3
Fowler.....	231	Pearlette.....	3
Carthage.....	188	Odee.....	2
Byers.....			1

The election, which was non-partisan, resulted in choice of the following officers: Representative, R. M. Painter; County Commissioners, Chris Schmoker, Hugh L. Mullen, J. D. Wick; County Clerk, M. B. Peed; Probate Judge, N. K. McCall; Sheriff, T. J. McKibben; Treasurer, W. F. Foster; Clerk of the District Court, W. H. Willis; Register of Deeds, C. W. Adams; County Superintendent, N. B. Clark; County Attorney, Sam Lawrence; Surveyor, Price Moody; Coroner, E. E. Buchecker.

GENERAL HISTORY.

Long prior to permanent settlement the territory now comprising Meade County was frequently visited by hunters, traders and adventurers. Prominent among these was Jedediah Strong Smith, a great-uncle of our esteemed fellow-citizen E. D. Smith, who visited this territory as early as the year 1818. Just who the first permanent settler was, and the date of settlement, are matters of much conjecture, but it is generally conceded that the first permanent settlement was at Meade City, about twelve miles north of the present town of Meade, and was in the year 1878. In 1879 a colony consisting of sixteen families from Zanesville, Ohio, settled at Pearlette. The original Pearlette was near the site of the town afterwards surveyed and platted, but not the identical location. John Jobling was president of the company responsible for this settlement, and his son, William Jobling, still a resident of Meade County, is perhaps the "oldest citizen," considered from a standpoint of continuous residence. Andor Eliason, who resided in this county up to the time of his death about two years ago, settled in 1879, as did also Frank Sourbeer, who is at present an efficient magistrate of Meade Center Township. Perhaps the oldest unaltered building in the county is one now on the farm of Frank Marrs, built by Mr. Sourbeer.

The first newspaper published in Meade County was the *Pearlette Call*, the first number being issued in April, 1879, by Addison Bennett.



VIEW OF PLAINS IN 1963.

The early settlers endured all the hardships incident to pioneer life. For years all provisions were freighted from Dodge City, then a notorious "border town."

The railroad penetrated Meade County in the year 1887, which gave business a new impetus and practically abolished the "freighter."

The early settlers were buoyant with hope, and were quick to indorse and accept any plan calculated to develop the country's resources, and for this reason were rendered an easy prey to designing schemers with "blue sky" to sell. A scheme that appealed strongly was a proposition to establish sugar mills for the manufacture of cane sugar. Great encouragement was given these enterprises, township bonds were voted and issued in their aid, and at least two mills— one at Meade, the other at West Plains— were built. The one at Plains never attempted to operate, but the one at Meade encouraged and induced the farmers to plant large acreages of cane, and contracted for the cane at fair prices. But, unfortunately, while the cane grew and thrived, sugar could not be produced from it, or at least it could not be produced in sufficient volume, to make the enterprise a success financially, and so the sugar-mill went the usual way of wildcat schemes. Underhand methods and fraud were alleged, graft and corruption were openly charged, but it was never proved that anyone ever made any money, honestly or dishonestly, out of the sugar-mill venture.

In the late 80's and early 90's, the country at that time being largely devoted to stock-raising, the county was sorely infested with cattle thieves more or less organized, and the aggregate losses to the legitimate

stock-growers from these depredations were enormous. The good citizens organized to fight the evil, many prosecutions were commenced although few convictions were secured, but the activity of the organization and of the prosecuting officers eventually convinced the law-breakers that Meade County was an unprofitable locality in which to pursue their nefarious vocation; the bands were broken up, some of the members reformed and quit stealing cattle, and others "stole away," so that for many, many years the owner of cattle has been able to sleep in peace, secure in the knowledge that his herds were safe.

During the decade from 1890 to 1900 the selling price of real estate in Meade County was *nil*; there was absolutely no demand for land; a good quarter-section of land could be bought for one hundred dollars, for fifty dollars, for twenty-five dollars, for any price one cared to offer, but there were practically no offers. The population decreased until but few more than a thousand souls found refuge within the bounds of the county. Most of the land was owned by the Government or by non-residents; few of these non-residents considered the land of sufficient value to warrant them in paying taxes, and they paid no tax. But finally the cattle industry had grown to such an extent that jealousy over the range sprang up, and in order to control certain range some enterprising stock-man would buy a quarter or two of land. Thus some slight market for real estate was created, but the price paid was usually from \$50 to \$100 per quarter-section. About the year 1900 a few adventurous persons, investors, "speculators" as they were called, commenced buying

land at the ridiculously low prices mentioned. Other investors followed, land gradually advanced in price to a dollar an acre, then came the real-estate agent, who assisted the speculator in disposing of his investments and in boosting the price, the price advanced to a dollar and a quarter, to two dollars an acre, and then came the actual settler. The Government land was homesteaded, the land was cultivated, the results were profitable, land continued to advance, until today the price of wheat land ranges from \$15 to \$40 per acre, and very little unimproved land can be bought at the lower price.

On August 5th, 1887, B. F. Cox, while drilling a well on the northeast quarter of Section 5, Township 31, Range 27, struck a flow of artesian water at a depth of 142 feet. These flowing wells were not considered of much value as a commercial proposition at that time, but the land underlaid by artesian water has since attained a commercial value of anywhere from \$50 to \$150 per acre, and the beginning of the end is not yet in sight; the possibilities of this particular portion of the county have not been appreciated. There is probably no more fertile, productive, desirable location in the whole world than the famous Artesian Valley of Meade County. Here Nature puts forth her noblest efforts to please, and the results are all that the most exacting could desire. Given the most fertile soil that Nature has provided, the most delightful climate that mankind enjoys, and Nature's most precious bestowal, pure water (more than 98 per cent pure by chemical analysis), cool and sparkling, boiling up from the earth's pure fountains, with a strong continual flow, no wind-



VIEW OF FOWLER IN 1903.

mills to keep in repair, no gasoline engines to maintain, no creaking windlass, no moss-grown, microbe-covered bucket, no drouth to fear, no floods to destroy,—what more could a farmer desire? No one can go through this valley, so wonderfully endowed with Nature's blessings, without a desire to call a part of it his own. The orange groves of California, the apple orchards of Oregon, the pine woods of Maine, the magnolia blossoms of Dixie Land, may appeal to some, but give to me a spot 'neath Heaven's canopy that puts to shame the skies of Italy, where I can see the sunflowers growing by the roadside, with their golden faces turned toward their God, and catch the fragrance of alfalfa blossoms on every zephyr that floats o'er the Artesian Valley, and you may have all the world beside.

Deposits of iron ore and of peat have been discovered; salt is found in more or less abundance, and was at one time manufactured by evaporation, but owing to lack of transportation facilities at that time the enterprise proved unprofitable and was abandoned. Immense deposits of silica exist, which is just commencing to be of commercial importance.

Ira McSherry, from his farm about three miles south of Meade, is now filling a contract with James H. Rhodes & Co., Chicago, manufacturers of industrial chemicals, whereby he furnishes them a stated quantity of silica per year for five years. The price realized by Mr. McSherry is \$2 per ton, delivered at Meade.

The Cudahy Packing Co. own large deposits of this mineral, and in the year 1915 built a railroad from their mines a few miles north of Meade, connecting with the

C. R. I. & P. at Fowler, for the purpose of transporting the product of these mines.

The Puck Soap Company own silica beds just west of Meade, and other deposits are found in various parts of the county.

A great deal has been written, and more told, concerning the Indian fight which occurred on Sand Creek, in Meade County, but it is of little importance in history. In September and October of 1878 a band of about two hundred Northern Cheyennes left their reservation near Fort Reno and started north, crossing Meade County, and in fact crossed the entire State of Kansas. An all-day's fight took place in the southeast part of the county between these Indians and 140 soldiers, the latter being assisted by about 60 civilians, mostly cowboys. One or two of the whites were slightly wounded, and while the damage to the Indians is not definitely known, the loss was small.

CITIES.

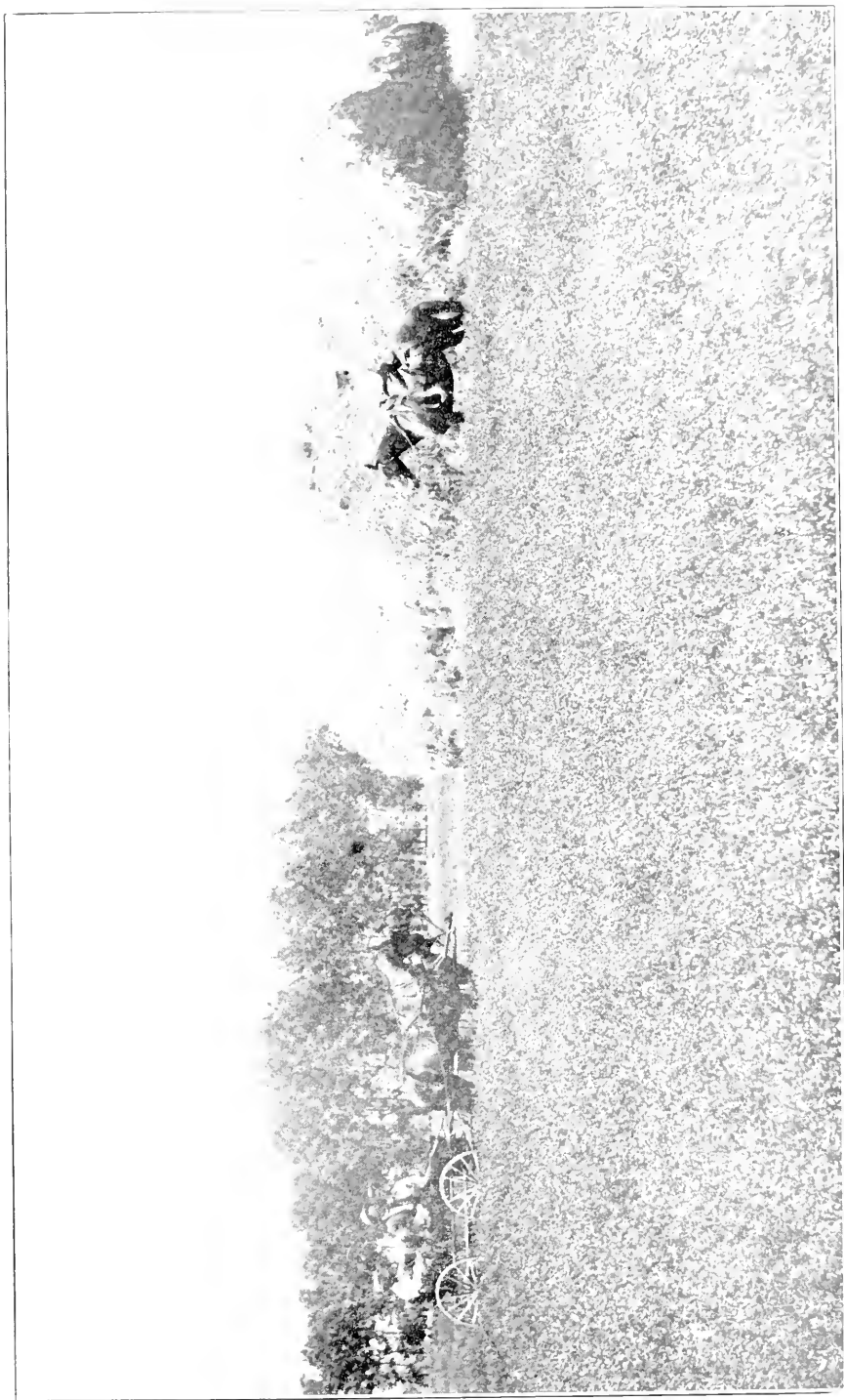
Soon after the settlement of the county commenced, and prior to its organization, cities and towns sprang up as if by magic, although many of them existed only on paper and in the promoter's vision. Various townsite companies were organized and incorporated. The first of these was The Meade Center Townsite Company, incorporated May 25th, 1885, with E. M. Mears, C. G. Allen, Henry H. Rogers, Alex. Bailey, I. N. Graves, James A. Morris, and A. D. McDaniel, directors.

The Belle Meade Town Company followed, incorporating June 6th, 1885, with J. M. Brannon, Robt. P. Cooper, John Schmoker, James H. Elmore, and H. Chaney, directors.

The next to incorporate was the Spring Lake Town Company, receiving its charter July 6th, 1885. The directors of this company were D. G. Stratton, L. K. McIntyre, J. C. Marts, J. F. Shore, O. Norman, J. W. Hotz, Frank Sourbeer, Geo. W. Winder, Al Wirt, Geo. B. Allen, and N. B. Clark.

Then followed the Meade Center Town Association, incorporating July 10th, 1885, with W. P. Hackney, W. S. Mendenhall, R. L. Walker, F. E. Gillett and Ledru Guthrie as directors, none of whom were residents of Meade County.

The Meade County Town Company incorporated next, and on Aug. 22nd, 1885, with John Werth, L.



ALFALFA FIELD ON CROOKED L RANCH.

B. Ostrander, Thomas H. Campbell, John Schmoker, and John B. Innis, directors.

After this came the Atwater Townsite Company, incorporated Oct. 18th, 1887, with James E. McCall, John J. Mohler, John I. Jones, Wm. B. Long, H. L. Markley, John E. Maxwell, and Lewis Maston, directors.

The Denver, New Orleans and Rock Island Town Company, incorporated Dec. 7th, 1887, with John Werth, John W. Taylor, N. B. Potter, A. McNulty, and T. McNulty, directors.

The Massachusetts Town Site Company, incorporated Jan. 6th, 1888, with Frank R. Gammon, B. B. Brown, Willis G. Emerson, Geo. L. Stevens, and Hugo Lundborg, directors.

The Title Land and Town Lot Company, incorporated Jan. 30th, 1888, with A. H. Heber, Willis G. Emerson, Geo. L. Stevens, Edward Doll, B. B. Brown, D. W. Higbee, and Selah A. Hull, directors.

First Oklahoma Town Company was incorporated April 13th, 1889, with A. H. Heber, W. F. Schell, M. W. Sutton, Willis G. Emerson, G. W. McMillen, L. E. Steele, Geo. Theis, Jr., H. B. Stone, and E. M. Mears, directors.

The West Plains Townsite Company was incorporated Dec. 2nd, 1884, with Charles W. Mosher, Edward M. Mears, William Leighton, William Randall, and Morris T. Roberts, directors.

Besides these incorporated companies there were several copartnerships and numerous individuals interested in promoting towns and townsites.

On July 9th, 1885, the Meade Center Townsite Com-

pany purchased from the United States Government the south half of the southwest quarter of Section 2, the south half of the northeast quarter of Section 10, the west half and the northwest quarter of Section 11, all in Township 32, Range 28, containing 520 acres, for \$650, and surveyed and platted a portion of the same. On Oct. 21st, 1885, an order for the incorporation of the city of Meade Center was issued by Hon. James A. Ray, Judge of the District Court of Comanche County, to which Meade County was at that time attached for judicial purposes. The organization was completed on Nov. 3rd, 1885, and at the same time the following officers were elected: Mayor, Peter E. Hart; Police Judge, William C. Osgood; Councilmen, Nelson Button, E. A. Twist, George M. Roberts, David Truax, and Wm. H. Stewart. The organization of Meade Center, and the election of the first officers, were legalized by act of the Legislature of 1886, and the name was changed to Meade by act of Legislature of 1889.

On March 24th, 1886, the Townsite Company quit-claimed the land theretofore purchased to the United States, and it was conveyed by the Government to Peter E. Hart, Mayor, in trust for occupants, on April 2nd, 1886. On March 31st, 1886, the official plat of the original survey, Block "A," First and Second Additions, and out-lots Nos. 1 and 2, was filed. Several additions were afterwards surveyed and platted.

Meade has always been the county seat, and has always grown apace with the country in general. At the present time it has two banks, two newspapers, three elevators, good telephone and electric-light service, one of the best systems of waterworks in the State.

and all lines of general business, as well as the professions, are ably represented.

The 1916 census gave Meade a population of 886.

The town of Touzalin was promoted by the Meade Center Town Association. It was located on the northwest quarter of Section 36, Township 32, Range 28, and was surveyed in August and September of 1884. The first building was erected in March, 1885. It enjoyed a slight boom for a time, supported, or "sported," three stores, a hotel, livery barn, blacksmith shop, etc.; but within three years after the first building was erected there remained nothing to mark the spot where the hoped-for city once stood. One handicap under which the promoters worked was the difficulty in securing water on the townsite. The buildings were moved away, and one of them was the building occupied by The First National Bank of Meade until it was torn down to make room for the present bank building.

The Mertilla Town Company, Joseph E. Sherrill, President, Henry C. Shuey, Secretary, was a copartnership. They filed the original plat of Mertilla Nov. 6, 1886, which included about fifty acres, described as follows: "Beginning at a point 730 feet east of the southwest corner of the northeast quarter of Section 30, Township 30, Range 29; thence north 730 feet; thence west 1460 feet; thence south 1460 feet; thence east 1460 feet; thence north 730 feet, to place of beginning." Two additions were platted later.

Mertilla early became a town of considerable promise. "Red" Jim High was proprietor of the first store. In addition to this there were two other stores, a hotel,



AN ALFALFA FIELD, FRANK MARRS' FARM.

livery barn, blacksmith shop, drug store, etc. Dr. Ostrander originally owned a drug store in Carthage. After Meade Center had been selected as the county seat the evacuation of Carthage commenced, and Dr. Ostrander moved his drug store, building and all, to Mertilla.

In the latter part of 1887 Mertilla commenced to go the way of Carthage and other defunct towns; most of the buildings were moved away, and in another year or two there was practically nothing remaining to mark the townsite, save the schoolhouse, which afterwards burned down. The drug-store building was moved to the farm of J. N. Stamper, and at the present time the schoolhouse in the Boyer district is the old drug store of Carthage and Mertilla, somewhat remodeled. The barn now on the Rexford farm, in Mertilla township, was built of lumber from the old Mertilla hotel. The townsite of Mertilla was vacated by act of the Legislature of 1893.

On May 17th, 1888, the Kansas Town and Land Company, owner of 51 per cent, and George W. Ragon, owner of 49 per cent, filed the plat of Jasper, which included all that part of the east half of the southwest quarter of Section 26, Township 31, Range 29, that lies north of the right-of-way of the C. K. & N. Railway (now the right-of-way of the C. R. I. & P.). This town, being on the railroad, was never absolutely deserted, but has never attained any great proportions. In 1909 Fullington & Marrs, a real-estate firm of Meade, made some slight attempt to promote this town. A new site was surveyed, near the old site, but was a part of the southwest quarter of Section 25, and the

town was called Jasper, the name being afterwards changed to Collingwood, and still later to Missler.

Greensward was surveyed, and the plat filed Aug. 21st, 1886, by Basil O'Donald and W. H. Rubottom. This townsite consisted of sixteen blocks, covering an area 1460 feet by 1470 feet, partly on the southeast quarter and partly on the southwest quarter of Section 12, Township 34, Range 27. A few lots were sold, but that is as far along as the promoters ever got with this town. In 1899 the Legislature vacated the townsite.

Nirwana City was dedicated by N. K. McCall, Probate Judge, under an act of Congress, it being located on Government land, occupying a part of Sections 2 and 3, Township 35, Range 29. Plat was filed Nov. 22nd, 1886, and showed twelve blocks, each 300 feet square, Block No. 12 being set aside for a public park. This site was afterwards re-surveyed and some slight changes made. Nirwana never made any substantial growth, but had at one time two stores, a blacksmith shop, and a feed barn.

Just prior to the beginning of Nirwana City, J. M. Byers started a store and blacksmith shop on his farm near Nirwana, calling the embryo town in honor of himself, Byers. Another little store followed, but after Nirwana was laid out Byers moved his store, shop and town over to the "City," and the town of Byers was no more. The first Democratic primary held in Odee Township met in the blacksmith shop at Byers, and elected delegates to the county convention.

Odee, while never surveyed or platted, was the name given a store down in Odee township by the sole pro-

prietor, "Little" Pratt. Pratt sold out and his successor died, which destroyed any chance Odee may have had of becoming a metropolis. A postoffice by that name was conducted in that neighborhood until a few years ago. Odee was named in honor of O. D. Lemert, who was credited with securing the establishment of the postoffice.

Fowler City was surveyed, platted and dedicated by George Fowler, owner of the land, which was a part of the northwest quarter of Section 6, Township 31, Range 26: plat filed May 1st, 1886. Various additions have since been made to this town. Fowler City was duly organized and incorporated, and flourished for a time, but finally, as the country gradually depopulated, it became dormant, and so remained for many years without city government, but it was never abandoned, and was always a good trading point. In April, 1908, it was reorganized and municipal government again established under act of the Legislature of 1907. At that time Fowler had a population of 345. The reorganization proved a good thing for the town and community, and Fowler has grown and prospered ever since. At present it has two banks, three elevators, a newspaper, a modern hotel, municipally owned light and water plant, and all general lines of business are well represented. The 1916 census gave Fowler a population of 503.

The West Plains Townsite Company purchased Section 16, Township 32, Range 30, from the State, and proceeded to lay out the city of West Plains. The original plat was filed Jan. 17th, 1885, but an amended plat was filed May 18th, 1886. This was the original



EARLY DAY ROUND-UP SCENE.

survey, and included an area of 2250 feet square, taken out of the center of the section. Later a plat of the first addition was filed, which included all the remainder of Section 16.

West Plains was originally incorporated on April 26th, 1888, and, like Fowler City, prospered and languished, then became dormant for many years, resuming municipal government.

Again, like Fowler, West Plains was never entirely depopulated, and while for years the number of families residing within its limits could be counted upon one's fingers, it always remained a good trading point, its one store, Parsons, supplying the wants of farmers and ranchmen for as great a distance as forty miles.

In 1902 Plains, as it is commonly called, commenced to grow, and has enjoyed a steady development ever since. Quite recently an election was called for the purpose of voting bonds for a municipal light and water plant, which proposition carried without one dissenting vote.

Besides a large number of smaller business enterprises, Plains has three large general stores, a bank, two hotels, an efficient telephone system, good schools, Methodist, Baptist and Roman Catholic Church, three elevators, one of which is the largest in the county, and claims the distinction of shipping more wheat than any other town in Kansas. The 1916 census gave Plains a population of 477.

Atwater comprised the southeast forty acres of Section 34, Township 33, Range 29. The plat was filed Nov. 9th, 1887. It had a general store, blacksmith shop, public hall, etc. It was quite a social center, the

principal social activity of those days being confined to dances at the hall, at which dances Bill Long usually furnished the music and Fred Judd did the calling; the proceeds, after paying the rent, being divided between Long and Judd in the ratio of 2 to 1. A post-office bearing the original name was maintained in the neighborhood of the old town until a few years ago. The townsite was vacated by the Legislature of 1899.

Rainbelt, unplatted, was located about two miles northwest of the present site of Missler, and was quite a little trading point for a time.

Artesian comprised about forty acres in the southeast corner of the southwest quarter of Section 6, Township 31, Range 27. The plat was filed by F. M. Davis Dec. 27th, 1887. Artesian acquired two stores, a hotel, real-estate office of the promoter, and a postoffice, although the postoffice was acquired by the absorption of another town. In 1885 the town of Springlake was commenced in the vicinity of where Artesian was laid out two years later. A postoffice was established at Springlake which was afterwards moved to Artesian, but the name of the postoffice was unchanged. The Missouri Pacific Railway Company had proposed to build a railroad across the northern part of Meade County, and the town of Artesian was on the proposed route. However, the railroad failed to come, and the town went. This townsite was vacated by the Legislature in 1893.

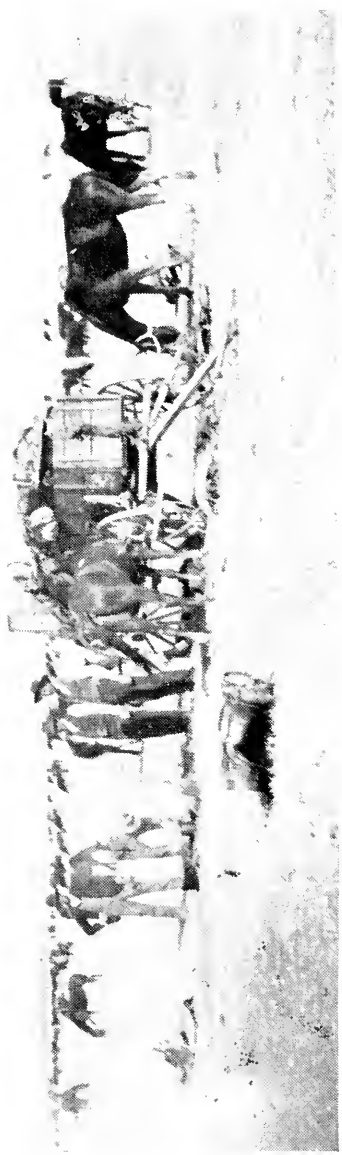
Pearlette occupied an area 1460 feet square in the northeast quarter of Section 27, Township 30, Range 27. Plat was filed June 1st, 1886, by John Jobling, Jr., and Robert Wright. The original Pearlette came

into existence and a postoffice was established in 1879, but it was not surveyed or platted until 1886, and the site as platted was nearly a mile from the original location. Originally the Joblings conducted a store, and the postoffice: Addison Bennett published a newspaper, *The Pearllette Call*, for a time, commencing in 1879, but as the newspaper business was not then a profitable one in Meade County the *Call* was short-lived. The town showed some evidence of prosperity, but finally disappeared, some of the buildings being moved to other towns.

Carthage was established by the Carthage Town Company on the east half of Section 31, Township 31, Range 28, about the time that Meade Center came into existence. It exhibited great signs of prosperity for a while, attaining a population of something like three hundred or four hundred, and was a very aggressive candidate for the location of the county seat. As soon as this question was settled adversely to the interest of this town, it disintegrated with great rapidity: many of the buildings were moved to Meade, some to other towns, some to farms, and soon there was nothing left of Carthage but a regretful memory.

Helvetia was the name given an embryo town located on Section 2, Township 30, Range 30. This town was the creation of Abe Sorter, who conducted a little store in conjunction with the postoffice. A blacksmith shop was also established there, but the town failed to "boom," and ceased to exist in 1888.

Belle Meade originated in the fertile brain of John Werth, and its original location was on his timber claim, the northwest quarter of Section 8, Township 31,



A CAMP IN THE EARLY DAYS.

Range 27. A postoffice was secured, with one, Milligan, as postmaster, who also conducted a little store in connection. Afterwards Chris Schmoker secured the postoffice and moved Belle Meade to his farm, and still later the city was moved to the farm of John Schmoker, on the southwest quarter of Section 20, Township 31, Range 27. Here it grew some, acquiring two stores and a hotel. The building used as a hotel is now the dwelling on the farm of J. M. Wood, near Meade. Belle Meade was originated late in 1879, or possibly early in 1880.

Skidmore was the name given to a little store established on the homestead of Miss Skidmore, in Section 8, Township 31, Range 28. However, the town found "poor skidding," and failed to prosper.

Roanoke was the name of another brain-storm, located on land now owned by John Wehrle, in the Valley. It made no further progress than to secure a name.

Another vision in the vicinity of the Eliason farm was called Artois, but, like Roanoke, it existed only in the imagination of its promoter.

The first town with which Meade County was threatened was located on Section 16, Township 31, Range 28. "Cap." French was a surveyor and locator; in the summer of 1878 he located two parties on this section, and in conjunction with them he formed the plan of establishing a city at that place, to be called Meade City. A little store was put up, a few other buildings were erected from time to time, a postoffice was secured, but the town failed to grow to any appreciable extent, and was abandoned about 1884.

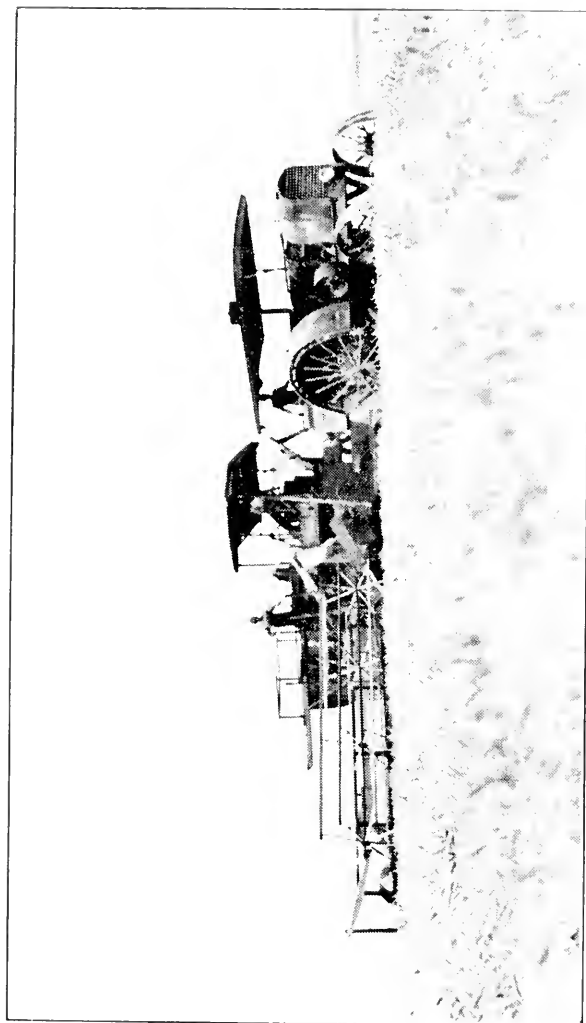
A well-authenticated story is told concerning an adventure of Cap. French during the Indian raid in the fall of 1878. A band of Indians came to Meade City, and, noticing a grindstone, they compelled French to turn it while they sharpened their knives. It was an unpleasant task for him, as he fully expected that when the knives were all sharpened some Indian would test the edge of his instrument on his scalp. However, he was agreeably surprised when they departed without molesting him further. A short distance away, however, they killed a freighter and took possession of his outfit.

Another story in connection with this Indian raid is, that at a ranch house, either in Meade or Clark County, a large quantity of dried apples was secured, of which the Indians ate greedily without subjecting the fruit to the process of cooking. They proceeded on their way toward Meade City, but before reaching that point one of the squaws, having drunk profusely, discovered that dried apples and artesian water do not constitute a proper combination, and died in great agony. She was buried in a small ravine, the body being placed in a ditch washed out by drainage-water and covered loosely with earth. The body was soon exposed, and about a year afterwards it was found by Oliver Norman. The bones were not intact, and Mr. Norman secured the skull, desiring it as a specimen of Indian anatomy. As portions of the skin still adhered to the bones he hung the skull in a tree for further "curing." While it yet remained in this tree some eastern tourists observed it, and reported to the eastern press the discovery of a strange tribe of savages

who disposed of their dead by depositing the bodies in the branches of trees.

Meade City was succeeded by Jo-Ash, located about a half-mile to the west. Jo-Ash acquired two stores, a postoffice, and was a regular mail route on a regular stage line. After two or three years it passed into memory.

Red Bluff and Carmen were once postoffices. Miles was a little store and postoffice conducted for many years by Captain and Mrs. Busing, on the south side of the Cimarron. The postoffice of Lakeland was in the Painter family through several administrations, and is now on the Hulburt ranch, Zada-Black Hulburt, P. M., while S. E. Matthews, the founder, still conducts the store and handles the mail at Uneda.



HARVESTING AND THRESHING.

POLITICAL.

While the political complexion of Meade County has always been strong Republican, with the exception of a brief period of time during the days of Populism, in local affairs the people have generally exercised their best judgment and voted without regard to party lines, considering the general fitness of the candidate as of more importance than his party affiliations. As a result there has never been a time when all of the county officers were of the same political faith, and the public has been unusually fortunate in securing capable officers.

In the tables which follow, the name appearing first is the one elected to the designated office, and the names following are the unsuccessful candidates. The party affiliation is indicated by the abbreviation following each name, and the year of election by the figures preceding each list.

1886.

Representative.....	M. J. O'Meara, D. R. M. Painter, R.
Probate Judge.....	W. D. Hudson, R. O. J. Loofbourrow, D.
Clerk District Court.....	Fillmore Hudson, R. W. H. Willis, D.
County Clerk.....	W. H. Young, R. Matt B. Peed, D.
Sheriff.....	George F. Eckert, R. Thomas G. McAuliffe, D.
Treasurer.....	C. S. Rockey, R. J. W. Taylor, D.

Register of Deeds	C. W. Adams, R.
	J. W. Jamison, D.
Superintendent	N. H. Mendenhall, R.
	N. B. Clark, D.
County Attorney	S. R. House, R.*
	A. F. Hollenbeck, D.
Surveyor	Moses Black, R.
	J. A. Dupree, D.
Coroner	H. Chaney, R.
	E. E. Buchecker, D.
Commissioner 1st District	J. H. Randolph, R.
	James Vaughn, D.
Commissioner 2nd District	Chris. Schmoker, R.
	Ed. McDaniel, D.
Commissioner 3rd District	E. M. Mears, R.
	F. J. Beckwith, D.

1887.

Sheriff	George F. Eckert, R.
	E. B. Summers, D.
Treasurer	C. S. Rokey, R.
	E. T. Hughes, D.
Register of Deeds	Jesse Summers, R.
	Wm. McKim, D.
County Clerk	L. E. Brown, R.
	T. C. Bonham, D.
Surveyor	K. P. Smith, R.
	John Werth, D.
Commissioner 1st District	J. H. Randolph, R.
	D. K. Griffin, D.
Coroner	I. N. Graves, R.
	Benjamin F. Cox, D.

1888.

Representative	A. H. Heber, R.
	Robert E. Steele, D.
	H. F. Caldwell, Union Labor.

* In September, 1888, Mr. House resigned, and R. W. Griggs was appointed to fill the unexpired term.

Probate Judge.	W. D. Hudson, R. E. T. F. Thompson, D. C. F. Cahoon, U. L.
Clerk District Court	D. B. Stutsman, D. E. B. Russell, R. C. T. White, U. L.
County Attorney.	R. W. Griggs, R. M. L. Brown, D. J. M. Holcomb, U. L.
Superintendent.	N. H. Mendenhall, R. James B. High, D. Mary Dalgarn, U. L.
Coroner.	William Lake, R. O. J. Looftbourrow, D.
Commissioner 2nd District.	E. D. Smith, R. D. Barragree, D. R. P. Cooper, U. L.

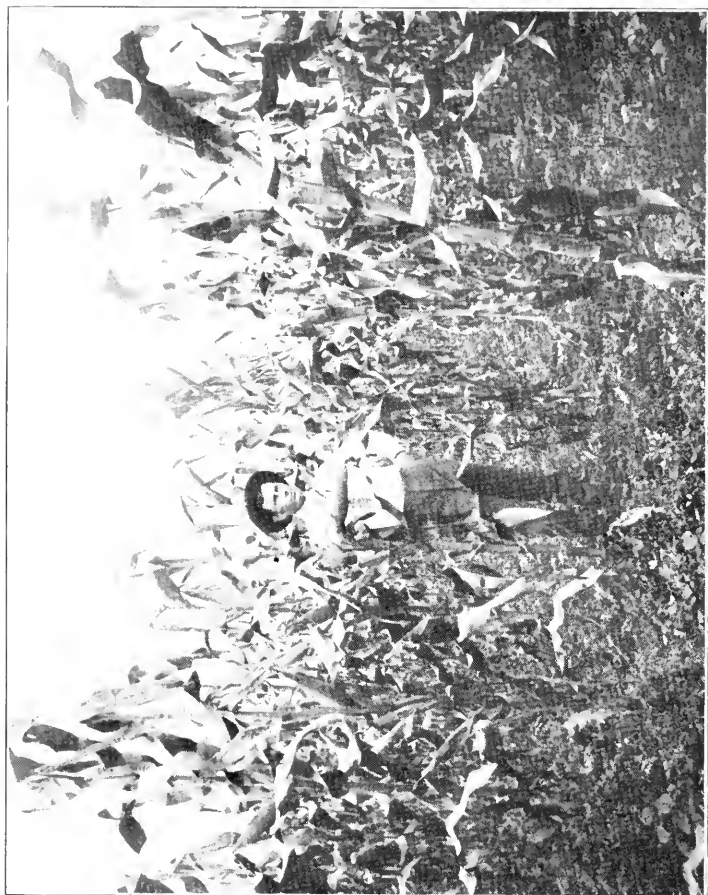
1889.

Surveyor.	John G. Fonda, R. John Werth, D.
County Clerk.	L. E. Brown, R. J. R. Graves, D.
Coroner.	William Lake, R. Dennis Callaghan, D.
Commissioner 3rd District.	C. M. Plymell, D.* John H. Ellis, R. M. H. Howard.

1890.

Representative.	A. H. Heber, Ind. S. M. Bennett, Pro. James Wilson, R.
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* C. M. Plymell at the time of his election was City Clerk of the city of West Plains, which office he continued to hold after he had qualified as County Commissioner. On April 29th, 1890, L. B. Kellogg, Attorney-General, commenced proceedings in *quo warranto* against Plymell in the Supreme Court. The opinion, filed in May, 1891, ousted Plymell from the office of Commissioner, for the reason that the law forbids a County Commissioner from holding any other office. The other two members of the Board, with the County Clerk, elected W. F. Newhouse to fill the vacancy, Mr. Newhouse receiving two votes and E. J. Graves one vote.



"WALLS OF CORN."

Probate Judge.....	W. D. Hudson, R. H. F. Caldwell, Peo.
County Attorney.....	Geo. S. Selvidge, Peo. R. W. Griggs, R.
Clerk District Court.....	D. B. Stutsman, Peo. Minor Weightman, R.
Superintendent.....	Mollie Dalgarn, Peo. Carrie B. Campbell, R.
Commissioner 1st District.....	William Beaty, Peo. Gamaliel Rogers, Peo.
Coroner.....	C. P. Fletcher, R.

1891.

Treasurer.....	Len Follick, R. R. L. Sawyer, Peo.
County Clerk.....	J. F. Armstrong, R. U. G. Park, Peo.
Register of Deeds.....	Moses Black, R. J. E. McCall, Peo.
Sheriff.....	A. J. Byrns, R. Geo. B. Allen, Peo.
Surveyor.....	John Werth, Peo. J. H. Ellis, R.
Coroner.....	C. Button, R. J. M. Riney, Peo.
Commissioner 2nd District.....	Frank Lohr, R. E. P. Boyle, Peo.
Commissioner 3rd District.....	H. E. Hayden, Peo. J. N. Stamper, R.

1892.

Representative.....	James Wilson, Peo. R. M. Painter, R.
Probate Judge.....	Andrew Graham, R. D. H. Bryant, Peo.
Clerk District Court.....	F. W. Fick, R. N. R. Bishop, Peo.
Superintendent.....	D. P. Wysong, R. J. A. Porterfield, Peo.

County Attorney	×	A. T. Bodle, Jr., R. Geo. S. Selvidge, Peo.
Coroner	×	A. Kessler, R. (to fill vacancy), G. W. Umbarger, Peo.
Commissioner 3rd District	×	H. E. Hayden, Peo. Rhees Singley, R.

1893.*

County Clerk	...	J. F. Armstrong, R. J. R. Graves, D.
Register of Deeds	.	Belle M. Peed, D. B. F. Stivers, R.
Sheriff	...	S. D. Adams, D. Richard Buis, R.
Treasurer	-----	Geo. W. Wiley, R. J. C. McLean, D. E. J. Graves, Peo.
Surveyor	-----	John Werth, D. J. H. Ellis, R.
Coroner	×	A. Kessler, R.
Commissioner 1st District	×	William Beatty, D. John B. Innis, R.

1894.

Representative	---	R. M. Painter, R. S. N. Butts, People's Party.
Clerk District Court	.	F. W. Fick, R. H. G. Marshall, P. P.
Probate Judge	.	Andrew Graham, R. N. B. Sawyer, P. P.
County Attorney	×	F. M. Davis, P. P. A. T. Bodle, Jr., R.
Superintendent	...	Jennie Kessler, R.
Commissioner 2nd District	×	B. H. Cordes, P. P. Benjamin White, R.

*There were three tickets—Republican, Democratic, and People's Party. The same candidates were nominated by the Democrats and the People's Party in 1895, and the same in 1894 except that the People's Party had a different candidate for County Treasurer.

1895.*

Treasurer.....	Geo. W. Wiley, R. F. G. Hamilton, D.
County Clerk.....	E. F. Rieman, R. J. F. Armstrong, D.
Register of Deeds.....	Belle M. Peed, D. Carrie B. Campbell, R.
Sheriff.....	S. D. Adams, D. Geo. W. Potter, R.
Surveyor.....	John Werth, R. Oliver Norman, D.
Coroner.....	C. Button, D.
Commissioner 3rd District.....	H. E. Hayden, D. E. N. Sharp, R.

1896.*

Representative.....	John Wehrle, D. R. M. Painter, R.
Probate Judge.....	Andrew Graham, R. N. B. Sawyer, D.
Clerk District Court.....	Effie Coon, R. Etna Dalgarn, D.
County Attorney.....	A. T. Bodle, Sr., R. Geo. B. Allen, D.
Superintendent.....	Jennie Kessler, R.
Commissioner 1st District.....	John B. Innis, R. Jacob Heape, D.

1897.*

County Clerk.....	E. F. Rieman, R. S. D. Adams, D.
Treasurer.....	Geo. B. Cones, R. D. B. Stutsman, D.
Sheriff.....	F. C. Judd, D. A. J. Byrns, R.
Register of Deeds.....	Nettie Bonham, R. Belle M. Peed, D.

* There were three tickets in the field—Republican, Democratic, and Populist, but the nominees of the Democratic and Populist Parties were the same.



PREPARING THE GROUND.

Surveyor	Moses Black, R. Oliver Norman, D.
Coroner	Ed. Otto, R. Theodore Wolfley, D.
Commissioner 2nd District	John F. Conrad, D. R. W. Campbell, R.

1898.*

Representative	Geo. W. Wiley, R. John Wehrle, D.
Probate Judge	David Truaz, R. T. B. Petefish, D.
Clerk District Court	Effie Coon, R. Lottie Snyder, D.
County Attorney	A. T. Badle, Sr., R. Geo. S. Selvidge, D.
Superintendent	J. A. Porterfield, R. James T. Walter, D.
Commissioner 3rd District	H. E. Hayden, D. B. F. Bisbee, R.

1899.†

Treasurer	Moses Black, R. James Wilson, D.
County Clerk	Frank Wehrle, D. N. B. Peek, R.
Sheriff	F. C. Judd, D. A. J. Byrns, R.
Register of Deeds	Winnie Bonham, R. Ormond Hamilton, D.
Coroner	Wm. F. Fee, D. Claus Borger, R.
Surveyor	John H. Ellis, R. Oliver Norman, D.
Clerk District Court	John Elliott, D.‡ John O. Keith, R.

* In 1899 there were three tickets—Republican, Democratic, and Populist, but the nominees of the last two were identical.

† In August, 1899, the Clerk of the District Court, Effie Coon, resigned, and John O. Keith was appointed to fill the vacancy until the next general election. In this election he was defeated by John Elliott, who was inducted into office on Nov. 14th, 1899, thus completing by more than one year the term for which Effie Coon had been elected in 1898.

Commissioner 1st District.....	John B. Innis, R. J. R. Keith, Pop.
1900.*	
Representative.....	S. D. Adams, D. A. O. Edmunds, R.
Probate Judge.....	E. W. Jenkins, R. W. J. Woodard, D.
Clerk District Court.....	John Elliott, D. F. Sourbeer, R.
Superintendent.....	Maggie Martin, D. J. A. Porterfield, R.
Commissioner 2nd District.....	John F. Conrad, D. W. C. Schmoker, R.
County Attorney.....	Geo. S. Selvidge, D. F. M. Davis, R.
1901.†	
Commissioner 3rd District.....	H. E. Hayden. Albert Hemple.
1902.	
Representative.....	R. B. Campbell, R. S. D. Adams, D.
County Attorney.....	Geo. S. Selvidge, D. A. T. Bodle, Sr., R.
Treasurer.....	Moses Black, R.
County Clerk.....	D. P. Wysong, R.‡ Frank Wehrle, D.

* In 1900 there were three tickets—Republican, Democratic, and People's Party, the last two having the same nominees.

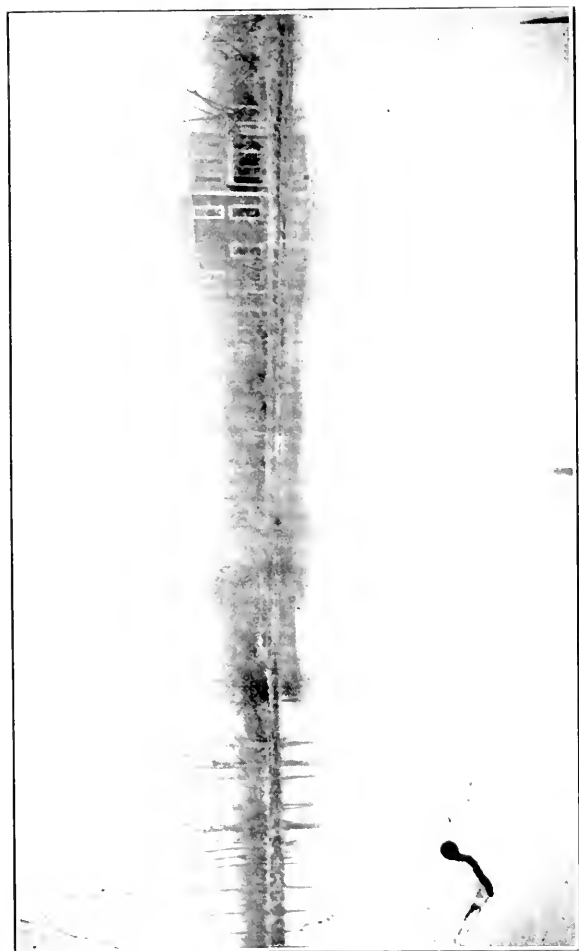
† The canvassing board found that the candidates for County Commissioner had each received 13 votes. Straws were drawn to decide the tie. Mr. Hayden, having drawn the long straw, was declared the winner. Thereafter Mr. Hemple instituted a contest. He was represented by attorneys A. T. Bodle, Sr., R. W. Griggs, R. M. Painter, F. M. Davis, and E. D. Smith. Attorneys for Mr. Hayden were A. B. Reeves, A. T. Bodle, Jr., Geo. S. Selvidge, and Geo. B. Allen. The contest was heard by E. W. Jenkins, Probate Judge, with Darius Skinner and R. W. Campbell as associate judges. The contest board decided in favor of the contestee, Mr. Hayden, and assessed the costs, taxed at \$165, against Mr. Hemple.

‡ Mr. Wehrle contested the election, alleging that the election boards had rejected numerous legal ballots, which, if counted, would have resulted in the election of Mr. Wehrle. The principal point of contention was as follows: The Democrats had failed to make nominations for some of the offices, and where this occurred there was printed in the space intended for the candidate's name the words, "No Nomination," followed by a voting square. Many who voted for Mr. Wehrle also placed a cross in the square opposite the "No Nomination." This was held to vitiate the whole ballot, and it was accordingly thrown out. Mr. Wehrle contended that these ballots were legal, and should have been counted. Mr. Wehrle was represented by attorneys F. C. Price, A. T. Bodle, Sr., and A. T. Bodle, Jr.; Mr. Wysong by attorneys R. W. Griggs, F. M. Davis, E. D. Smith, S. S. Ashbaugh, and R. M. Painter. The case was heard by E. W. Jenkins, Probate Judge, R. A. Harper and John W. Ellis, associate judges, and F. G. Hamilton, clerk. The contest board sustained the election boards, declared Mr. Wysong elected, and taxed the costs, \$130.64, against Mr. Wehrle.

Probate Judge.....	E. W. Jenkins, R.
Clerk District Court.....	John Elliott, D. J. I. Stamper, R.
Sheriff.....	Samuel B. Givler, R. Samuel P. Bunch, D.
Register of Deeds.....	Winnie Bonham, R. John W. Russell, D.
Superintendent.....	Maggie Martin, D. Bertha Campbell, R.
Surveyor.....	J. H. Ellis, R.
Coroner.....	C. B. Leslie, R. Wm. F. Fee, D.
Commissioner 1st District.....	T. V. Pinnick, R. J. H. Randolph, D.

1904.

Representative.....	Geo. B. Cones, R. H. E. Hayden, D.
County Attorney.....	Frank S. Sullivan, D. J. R. Griggs, R.
Treasurer.....	Ormond Hamilton, D.
County Clerk.....	D. P. Wysong, R. Frank Wehrle, D.
Probate Judge.....	A. T. Bodle, Sr., R. William Jobling, D.
Clerk District Court.....	John Elliott, D. E. O. Palmer, R.
Sheriff.....	Samuel B. Givler, R. Sam Conger, D.
Register of Deeds.....	Florence Smith, R. Charles E. Tally, D.
Superintendent.....	Ruth Bennett, D. Frilla DeCow, R.
Surveyor.....	J. M. Robinson, D. J. H. Ellis, R.
Coroner.....	Wm. F. Fee, D. C. B. Leslie, R.



FARM SCENE.

Commissioner 2nd District.....	John F. Conrad, D. Geo. M. Edwards, R.
Commissioner 3rd District.....	J. W. King, D. B. H. Cordes, R.

1906.

Representative.....	S. D. Adams, D. Geo. B. Cones, R.
County Attorney.....	Frank S. Sullivan, D. F. P. Marshall, R.
Treasurer.....	Ormond Hamilton, D. Edward Desmarias, R.
County Clerk.....	W. W. Pressly, R. W. H. Dalgarn, D.
Probate Judge.....	J. H. Randolph, D. S. O. Ball, R.
Clerk District Court.....	John Elliott, D. Ira Scott, R.
Sheriff.....	J. S. Price, D. J. F. Pinnick, R.
Register of Deeds.....	Florence Smith, R. Charles E. Tally, D.
Superintendent.....	Ruth Bennett, D. E. B. Reay, R.
Surveyor.....	Moses Black, R.
Coroner.....	Wm. F. Fee, D. Geo. A. Nickelson, R.
Commissioner 1st District.....	William Jobling, D. T. V. Pinnick, R.

1908.

Representative.....	J. E. McNair, R. S. D. Adams, D.
County Attorney.....	D. P. Wysong, R. Geo. B. Allen, D.
Treasurer.....	Moses Black, R. J. C. Hall, D.
County Clerk.....	W. W. Pressly, R. W. J. Woodard, D.

Probate Judge	J. H. Randolph, D. J. H. Ellis, R.
Clerk District Court	John Elliott, D.* Frank Ellis, R.
Sheriff	J. S. Price, D. A. J. Byrns, R.
Register of Deeds	W. T. Gray, R. C. H. Burford, D.
Superintendent	Mattie Haigh, R. Lou McCrellis, D.
Surveyor	N. C. Galway, R. G. W. Dalgarn, D.
Coroner	E. W. Fletcher, R. Wm. F. Fee, D.
Commissioner 2nd District	James Wilson, R. F. I. Bennett, D.
Commissioner 3rd District	F. M. Paul, Sr., R. T. B. Novinger, D.

1910.

Representative	Geo. B. Cones, R. H. Llewellyn Jones, D.
County Attorney	Frank S. Sullivan, D. D. P. Wysong, R.
Treasurer	John F. Sweet, R. H. Albertson, D.
County Clerk	W. W. Pressly, R.
Probate Judge	J. H. Randolph, D. M. S. Gillidett, R.
Clerk District Court	John Elliott, D. John O. Keith, R.
Sheriff	Thos. Martin, D. E. W. White, R.
Register of Deeds	W. T. Gray, R.
Superintendent	Mattie J. Haigh, R. Jessie M. Chase, D.

* In this election the two candidates for Clerk of the District Court each received the same number of votes. The tie was decided by lot. At the suggestion of Mr. Ellis six straws, three long and three short, were placed in a bag, the ends projecting, and the candidates drew alternately. Mr. Elliott drew two long straws and was declared elected.

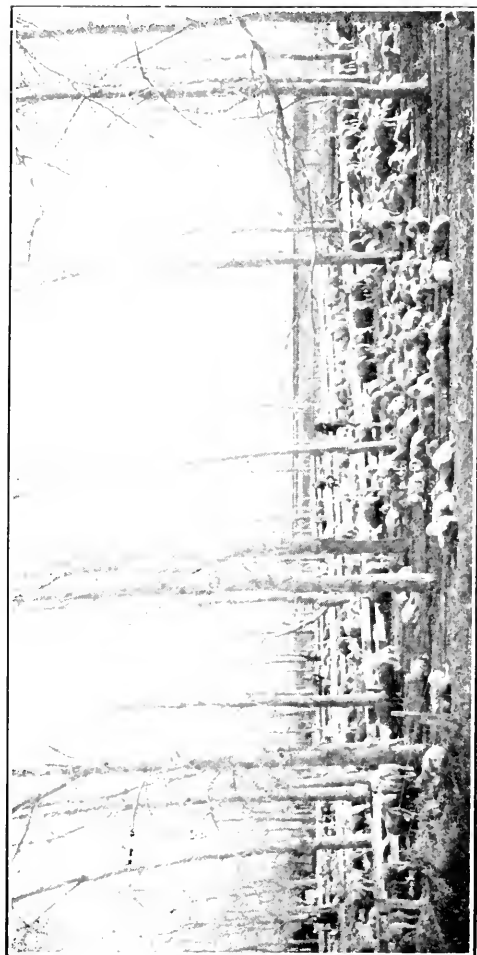
Surveyor.....	N. C. Galway, R. George Hockaden, D.
Coroner.....	E. A. Twist, Ind.
Commissioner 1st District.....	A. B. Roberts, R. Wm. Jobling, D.

1912.

Representative.....	E. L. Watt, R. H. J. Sloss, R. Isaac Covalt, So.
County Attorney.....	Frank S. Sullivan, D.
Treasurer.....	J. F. Sweet, R. J. D. Dalgarn, So.
Probate Judge.....	J. H. Randolph, D. A. J. Paden, R. Newton Snyder, So.
County Clerk.....	W. W. Pressly, R. J. D. Golliber, So.
Clerk District Court.....	John Elliott, D. John Lusk, Jr., So.
Sheriff.....	Thos. Martin, D. J. A. Spencer, R. R. J. Walk, So.
Register of Deeds.....	W. T. Gray, R.
Superintendent.....	Pearl Wood-Smith, D. Frank Carlson, R.
Surveyor.....	Moses Black, R.
Coroner.....	Wm. F. Fee, D. G. A. Nickelson, So.
Commissioner 2nd District.....	John Cordes, D. H. N. Holderman, R.
Commissioner 3rd District.....	T. B. Novinger, D. S. T. Frederick, R.

1914.

Representative.....	H. Llewellyn Jones, D. Geo. W. Day, R. C. B. Leslie, Progressive.
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SHEEP YARD ON THE OLDHAM FARM.

County Attorney.....	Frank S. Sullivan, D. F. M. Davis, R. E. D. Smith, Prog.
Treasurer.....	R. W. Campbell, R. Frank Wehrle, D. C. M. Gates, Prog.
County Clerk.....	W. W. Pressly, R. F. W. Culvert, Prog.
Probate Judge.....	C. A. Marrs, R. J. H. Randolph, D. Blanche Love, Prog.
Clerk District Court.....	John Elliott, D. Effie Sandusky, R.
Sheriff.....	L. G. Kisle, D. Frank Ellis, R. H. E. Hoon, Prog.
Register of Deeds.....	Ira Scott, R. W. H. Dalgarn, D. Jennie Crocker, Progressive.
Superintendent.....	Pearl Wood-Smith, D.
Surveyor.....	Moses Black, R. Chas. Havens, Prog.
Coroner.....	Wm. F. Fee, D. E. W. Fletcher, Prog.
Commissioner 1st District.....	A. B. Roberts, R. John Staples, D. Charles Haskins, Prog.

BANKS.

Meade County has not been lacking in financial institutions. The first bank to incorporate was the Meade County Savings Bank, incorporated July 30th, 1885; Isaac N. Graves, R. R. Wells, H. H. Rogers, C. W. Adams, A. H. Heber, E. F. Seeberger, E. L. Mead, and L. E. Steele, Directors. This bank, however, never opened for business.

The first bank to do business in Meade County was The Meade Deposit Bank, a private bank, which commenced business in Meade Center in the fall of 1885; M. J. O'Meara, President; B. F. Cox, Vice-President; M. H. Ewart, Cashier. About a year later it nationalized, and became The First National Bank of Meade Center. It operated as a national bank for a couple of years, when it went into involuntary liquidation, with John C. Fry as receiver.

The Meade County Bank, Meade Center, was incorporated Feb. 26th, 1886, with a capital stock of \$50,000. Directors, A. H. Heber, M. Wightman, Ed. Dool, C. S. Rokey, and Chas. P. Woodbury. It afterwards nationalized under the name of The Meade County National Bank, but in 1896 it again became a State bank under its original name and with its original capital stock; A. H. Heber, Geo. L. Stevens, E. F. Rieinan, E. T. Brawley, and Chas. P. Woodbury, Directors. Soon afterwards it liquidated and went out of business, Geo. B. Cones winding up its affairs as trustee.

The Farmers and Stockgrowers Bank was incorporated Nov. 20th, 1886, capital stock \$50,000, and opened for business at Meade Center, with the following Directors: Isaac N. Graves, Samuel Williams, Lewis K. McGuffin, Oscar B. Hamilton, and Ormond Hamilton. This bank was reincorporated August 31st, 1891, with a capital stock of \$5,000, and with Ormond Hamilton, F. G. Hamilton, M. P. Hamilton, J. W. Hamilton and M. H. Tripod as Directors. At this time the mercury in the thermometer of business had reached to almost zero, and it continued to descend for some years. This bank was conservatively managed, but under the adverse conditions existing at that time success was unattainable, and the bank became insolvent. In 1896 Louis Boehler was appointed receiver, and remained in charge of the assets until the affairs were settled, and he was finally discharged in 1902. And it is to the credit of the receiver and of the officers and stockholders of the bank, that after paying the expense of the receivership and the preferred claims, the general creditors realized more than seventy-eight cents on the dollar, a much higher rate than is usually paid by an insolvent.

The Citizens State Bank, Meade Center, was incorporated Aug. 5th, 1887, with a capital stock of \$100,000; George C. Stroug, E. G. Robertson, C. W. Adams, W. H. Young, Wm. K. Palmer, Coleman Rogers, and A. J. McCabe, Directors. This bank was reorganized Jan. 11th, 1889, under the name of The Citizens Bank of Meade Center; capital stock, \$50,000. Directors, E. G. Robertson, Coleman Rogers, Arthur J. McCabe, C. W. Adams, and C. E. Cones. It soon thereafter liquidated.



NO PLACE LIKE HOME.

The Bank of West Plains, West Plains, was incorporated Jan. 11th, 1888; capital stock, \$50,000. Directors, B. B. Brown, W. C. Gould, C. Gould, H. B. Stone, and R. F. Crawford. This bank continued to do business until the general conditions of the country warned the Directors that a continuation would mean failure, when they closed their doors, paid depositors and creditors in full, and quit business. The officers, Brown, Gould and Stone, went to Colorado and engaged in the banking business at Lamar.

A private bank was also organized at Fowler, in the late 80's, of which Wm. Beaty was president, B. F. Cox, Vice-President, O. S. Hurd, Cashier; capital stock, \$5,000. It paid out in full and quit business in 1890.

Of the banks at present doing business in Meade County, The Meade State Bank was incorporated Aug. 22nd, 1899. Directors, C. Q. Chandler, W. S. Berryman, J. W. Berryman, N. A. Berryman, and Emily Berryman. Its capital stock was \$5,000, which was increased to \$10,000 in 1900. In 1903 this bank was reorganized, under the same charter, with R. A. Harper, President, B. F. Cox, Vice-President, Louis Boehler, Cashier. In 1909 the capital stock was again increased, this time to \$30,000. It now has a surplus, in round numbers, of \$13,000, and deposits of \$200,000. Its depositors are protected by the Bank Depositors' Guaranty Fund of the State of Kansas.

The First National Bank of Meade opened for business on May 2nd, 1904, with the following officers: President, J. B. Buck; Vice-President, Geo. S. Selvidge; Cashier, F. W. Curl. The Directors, in addition

to the President and Vice-President, were: E. A. Twist, Linn Frazier, B. F. Leach, J. R. Graves, and Geo. B. Cones. The present officers are: W. F. Casteen, President; J. F. Conrad, Vice-President; F. W. Curl, Cashier. Its capital stock is \$25,000, and its surplus and deposits, in round numbers, are respectively \$25,000 and \$180,000. Its depositors are protected by bond in The Deposit Guaranty and Surety Co.

The Fowler State Bank, Fowler, was incorporated April 3rd, 1906, with a capital stock of \$10,000, and with the following Directors: R. A. Harper, J. C. Hall, Leo P. McMeel, Louis Boehler, W. P. Bunyan, and F. D. Morrison. Its present officers are: R. A. Harper, President; T. V. Pinnick, Vice-President; F. D. Morrison, Cashier; John F. Sweet, Assistant Cashier. Its present capital stock, surplus and deposits are, respectively, \$25,000, \$12,500, and \$100,000. It is under the protection of the Bank Depositors' Guaranty Fund.

The First National Bank of Fowler commenced business Jan. 3rd, 1910, with the following officers: President, John F. Conrad; Vice-President, J. C. Hall; Cashier, D. B. Mitchell; Directors, John F. Conrad, J. C. Hall, Linn Frazier, John Boucher, and J. M. Dowell. Its present officers are: Linn Frazier, President; J. C. Hall, Vice-President; Geo. D. Hall, Cashier. Its capital stock, surplus and deposits are, respectively, \$25,000, \$15,000, and \$115,000. Its depositors are protected by surety bond.

The Plains State Bank, Plains, was incorporated July 7th, 1906, with the following Directors: J. A. Collingwood, D. A. Collingwood, Joe G. Collingwood,

S. G. Demoret, Ella Demoret, and J. H. Collingwood, the last named of whom has been Cashier since the bank's organization. Its present capital stock and surplus are \$35,000; its deposits are \$150,000.

The American Mortgage Trust Company was chartered August 15th, 1887, with an authorized capital stock of two hundred thousand dollars. Its purposes were to negotiate loans on farm and city property, to purchase securities, and to own and sell real estate. The Directors were: A. H. Heber, Willis G. Emerson, L. S. Sears, L. W. Brown, Edward Dool, R. P. Brown, Geo. L. Stevens, D. W. Higbee, and L. D. Rogers, all of whom were residents of Meade County, save the last three. This company flourished for a time, but finally became involved. Geo. S. Selvidge was appointed receiver, and at a receiver's sale in 1899 R. W. Griggs purchased the entire assets of the corporation for three hundred dollars.



ARTESIAN WELL ON THE B. F. LEACH FARM.

NEWSPAPERS.

Meade County is the rock that has wrecked the hopes and shattered the dreams of many newspapermen. In the early days almost every boom town "sported" but did not "support" a newspaper. The result was that these papers were published with more or less regularity as long as the editor could get credit for white paper and printer's ink, and then died a natural death. I use the expression "natural death" advisedly, because it is but natural that these early-day newspapers, under the economic conditions that then existed, should come to an untimely end.

The first paper published in Meade County was *The Pearlette Call*, by Bennett & Lowery, the first edition appearing April 15th, 1879, and the last bearing date May 8th, 1880.

In May, 1885, C. K. Sourbeer issued the first number of *The Spring Lake Hornet*, which continued to appear monthly until the summer of 1889.

In June, 1885, E. E. Henley commenced publishing *The Fowler Graphic*, and continued until 1891.

The Carthage Times was published from June, 1885, to January, 1886.

In July, 1885, Cannon Bros. issued the first number of *The Meade Center Press*. In December of the same year this paper was sold to Meehler Bros., and the name changed to *The Press Democrat*. In March, 1886, Meehler Bros. sold to H. Wiltz Brown, and in 1890 Brown unloaded on Sam Lawrence, who published the

paper under the name of *The Meade Democrat* until 1894, when he sold to C. G. Allen, and publication was suspended in 1895.

In the spring of 1887 T. J. Palmer (referred to affectionately by his friends and derisively by his enemies, as "Toe-jam") issued *The Meade Republican*, which existed until 1894.

In the summer of 1887 H. L. Bishop published *The Mertilla Times*, but the times were too hard and this paper lived but a few months.

In 1887 Lon Whorton issued the first number of *The Meade Center Telegram*, and the last number was issued the following year.

The West Plains Guardian was published from 1887 to 1889.

The Fowler Advocate was published for about a year, commencing in 1887.

The Meade County Globe was established in July, 1885, by J. Malcolm Johnson. In August, 1886, this paper was purchased by Frank Fuhr, and by him published for twenty-seven years. Mr. Fuhr witnessed the rise and fall of practically all of the newspaper ventures, and it is chiefly from him that the information in this chapter is obtained. In November, 1913, Mr. Fuhr sold the *Globe* to W. S. Martin, who has since been its publisher.

In 1900 John Wehrle established *The Meade County News*, and continued to publish it until in 1909, when it was sold to The Meade Publishing Company, a corporation organized by the business men of Meade. John Innis was placed in charge as business manager and E. D. Smith as editor. After a few months Smith

retired, and was succeeded by John Miller, who edited the *News* for about a year. Miller was succeeded as editor by Agnes Wehrle, who conducted the paper a while for the corporation, and in July, 1912, Miss Wehrle purchased the plant, and the corporation went out of existence.

In 1906 I. J. Stanton established *The Fowler Gazette*, and published it until 1914, when he sold out to W. R. Bond, who, after a brief experience, sold to Perry Bros., who changed the name of the paper to *The Fowler News*.

Maurice McDonald established *The Plains Journal* in 1907. After about a year he sold to E. B. McConnell. Mr. McConnell published it for three or four years and then sold to F. W. Calvert, the present owner and editor.

In addition to the regular newspapers there is published during the school year *The Tattler*, published by the Meade High School students, and *The High School Life*, published by students of the Fowler High School.

It is not recorded that the publisher of any Meade County newspaper acquired great wealth by his enterprise. But that is neither a reflection on, nor a criticism of, Meade County. For the most part these papers were established in the early days, the "boom" days, the promising days, and the newspaperman, like the merchant, the banker and others, simply followed the light that failed.



SOME WELL.

CHURCHES.

The history of civilization shows that the missionary followed closely the discoverer, and so we find the early settlers of Meade County active in the organization of religious societies, long before the organization of the county.

The first organized church in the county was the First Congregational Church of Crooked Creek, organized in 1879. On October 1st, 1879, Geo. S. Emerson deeded to Silas E. Ayres, W. D. Ayers and H. M. Fordes, Trustees of said church, a plot of ground in the southwest corner of the southwest quarter of Section 6, Township 30, Range 26, described in the deed as follows: "After allowing for the road on section line and extension four hundred feet, and three and a half feet east and west, and two hundred and sixteen and one quarter feet north and south."

A church building was erected on this grant and a cemetery provided for, which cemetery still marks the spot. Rev. Mr. Feemster was the first pastor. This church was regularly organized, but was not incorporated.

The first incorporated church was Pleasant Prairie Congregational Church, incorporated March 18th, 1881, more than four years prior to the organization of the county, with John Schmoker, Peter Blain and Christian Schmoker as trustees. Services were held at the old Belle Meade schoolhouse.

Next to incorporate was the Meade Center Metho-

dist Episcopal Church, incorporated March 26th, 1886, with George W. Evington, Samuel D. Huffman, David Truax, Sam Lawrence and Geo. Wallace as trustees. This church was organized by Rev. J. N. Stamper, who was its first minister, and, it is said, preached the first sermon in Meade.

Closely following this was the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Fowler City, incorporated June 18th, 1886, with James B. Brewer, George Fowler, Smith S. Pine, Alfred V. Carpenter and Alexander A. Major as trustees.

Then came the Church of Christ of Meade Center, incorporated Aug. 9th, 1886, with F. P. Scott, A. D. McDaniel, A. J. Davis, M. B. Peede and C. G. Allen as trustees. This church prospered for a time, but later languished, and the church building was afterwards secured and used by the First Baptist Church, organized in 1899.

Next was the First United Presbyterian Church of Meade Center, incorporated Jan. 14th, 1887, with H. I. Stevens, Edward Tring, E. D. Smith, M. E. Huston and M. W. Milligen as trustees. As an organization this church never obtained a permanent foothold, and most of its members united with the First Presbyterian Church of Meade Center, which was incorporated Jan. 22nd, 1887, with Edward Dool, Edward P. Boyle and James A. Lynn as trustees.

On Feb. 22nd, 1887, the First Methodist Episcopal Church of West Plains was incorporated, with Benj. P. Bruce, Fred Baddeley, Thos. Beaty, Harry B. Stone and Ernest Russell as trustees. This church maintained its organization until the city of West Plains was practically depopulated, when it lapsed.

The Crooked Creek Methodist Episcopal Church was incorporated Oct. 6th, 1887, with J. W. Brock, Wm. J. Brown and John L. Smith as trustees.

The First Baptist Church of Meade was incorporated Aug. 24th, 1899, with William T. Dick, Mrs. M. A. Williams, N. B. Sawyer, A. V. Angel and H. G. Yocum as trustees. The first pastor of this church was Rev. J. M. Robinson.

Then came the First Baptist Church of Plains, incorporated Jan. 22nd, 1904, with Luellen Edwards, A. J. Parsons, J. W. King, G. W. Gillidett and J. B. Sullivan as trustees. Coincident with the organization of this church a building was erected by popular subscription, which building, while being primarily under the control of the Baptist Church, was to be opened freely to any other denomination desiring to use it.

April 7th, 1904, the Evangelical Lutheran St. Johannes Congregation or Society, Odee Township, was incorporated, with Henry Borchers, Henry Winter and Henry Eckhoff as trustees.

The Free Methodist Church of Mertilla was incorporated May 20th, 1908, with C. F. Bowyer, George W. Branstetter, J. S. Cornish, P. L. Triplett and Albertus Fry as trustees.

This was followed by the Methodist Episcopal Church of Plains, incorporated Aug. 19th, 1910; A. S. Prather, A. L. Driver, O. D. Overton, N. A. Geisinger and H. M. Wooten, trustees.

Next was the First Christian Church of Fowler, incorporated Jan. 5th, 1911; J. G. Clark, J. L. Runyan, W. E. Carr, John W. Sims and George Lasater, trustees.

After this was the First Baptist Church of Fowler,



ANOTHER GUSHER.

incorporated June 21st, 1911; William T. Dick, Charles VanDoren and John Foster, trustees.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Uneda came last, incorporated March 24th, 1913; Geo. P. Gamble, H. H. Ford, J. W. Steele, O. J. Easton and P. J. Mitchell, trustees.

In addition to these churches there were, first and last, many others maintaining organizations that were not incorporated under the State laws, some of which are still active. Among the latter are the Roman Catholic Churches at Fowler, Plains, and Meade, the last named of which is among the oldest churches in the county. In October, 1888, this church purchased about a quarter of an acre of ground lying just north of Block 25, First Addition, and erected a building thereon, which was used until a few years ago, when, it being considered no longer fit, it was razed, and the present church built.

Then there is St. Augustine Protestant Episcopal Church of Meade, built in 1911, and the Christian Church, organized in February, 1916; the Friends, who have just completed in Fowler the most modern and beautiful church building in the county. The Mormons have an organization in the country south of Missler, and the Mennonite Church in what is known as "the Colony," south and east of Meade.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The public schools of Meade County compare most favorably with those of other counties of the State. The county is divided into 44 school districts, having a school population of 1,738, and employing 72 teachers.

Both Meade and Fowler maintain well-equipped accredited high schools, the former employing 14 instructors and the latter 12. Plains employs 5 teachers.

Of the teachers employed in the public schools, 24 hold State certificates, 9 hold Normal Training certificates, 13 have first-grade county certificates, 12 second-grade, and 14 third-grade.

Each of the towns has splendid modern school buildings, and many of the country districts have school-houses that would do credit to any community.

The average wage paid teachers for the year 1915-16 was \$90 per month, for high-school teachers, \$70 per month for teachers in the grades, and \$55 per month in the rural schools.

FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS.

Meade County is noted for its Fraternal Societies, and probably, in proportion to its population, has more fraternalists than any other county in Kansas.

The M. W. A. have a camp at Plains, organized in 1904. Plains Lodge No. 367, A. F. & A. M., was organized in February, 1912.

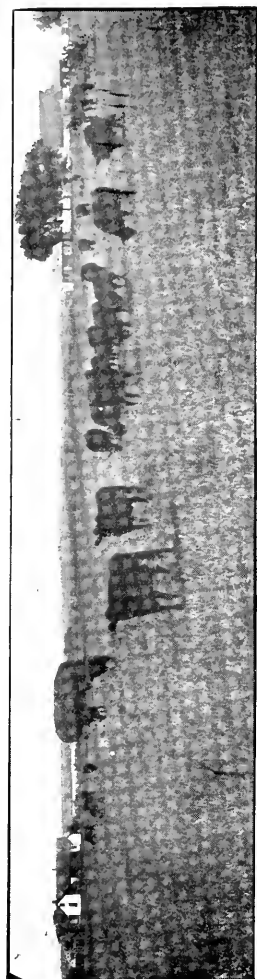
Fowler Lodge No. 519, I. O. O. F., received its charter on Oct. 10th, 1901; Fowler Rebekah Lodge No. 406 was chartered Jan. 21st, 1902; Fowler Camp No. 1768, M. W. A., received its charter on March 3rd, 1898; and Friendship Camp No. 1768, R. N. A., was chartered Dec. 5th, 1908.

The city of Meade is especially distinguished as a fraternal center.

Of the lodges still active, the oldest is Webb Lodge No. 275, A. F. & A. M., its warrant bearing date Feb. 16th, 1887; Webb Chapter No. 304, O. E. S., was chartered on May 14th, 1908; and on Feb. 16th, 1909, the 22nd anniversary of the blue lodge, a warrant was issued for Meade Chapter No. 46, R. A. M.

A charter was issued for Meade Lodge No. 523, I. O. O. F., Oct. 10th, 1901; for the Meade Rebekah Lodge No. 422, on Sept. 19th, 1902; for Meade Encampment No. 138, on Oct. 10th, 1907; and a warrant was issued for the Canton of Patriarchs Militant No. 8, on Nov. 6th, 1907.

Meade Lodge No. 22, K. of P., was organized in November, 1911.



CONTENTMENT.

Meade Center Lodge No. 247, A. O. U. W., was granted a charter on Sept. 4th, 1902.

A charter was issued to Meade Camp No. 1738, M. W. A., on Aug. 12th, 1892; and to Middlemarch Camp No. 622, R. N. A., on April 10th, 1902.

Meade Council No. 225, Sons and Daughters of Justice, was organized in February, 1906.

Meade Center Post No. 388, while previously existing, was reorganized in 1909.

Artesian Camp No. 201, W. O. W., was organized in July, 1915.

Meade also has an organization of the A. H. T. A.

Three members of the Meade organizations are at present the heads of three great orders, viz.: R. M. Painter is Department Commander of the G. A. R. of Kansas; O. R. Stevens is Grand Patriarch of the Grand Encampment, I. O. O. F.; Frank S. Sullivan is Grand Chancellor of the Knights of Pythias, Grand Domain of Kansas.

BONDED INDEBTEDNESS.

On March 15th, 1888, Meade County issued one hundred twenty bonds of one thousand dollars each, bearing six per cent and due in twenty years, in aid of the Chicago, Kansas & Nebraska Railroad. These are the only bonds ever issued by the county as an original obligation, all subsequent issues—and there have been several—being for the purpose of taking care of these original bonds, and other accrued indebtedness.

The bonds standing against the county at the close of the fiscal year, July 1st, 1915, are as follows:

\$26,000 due in 1929, bearing 5 per cent interest.

\$95,000 due in 1936, bearing $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent interest.

\$50,000 due in 1938, bearing $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent interest.

The present bonded indebtedness of the different townships is as follows:

Meade Center.....	\$7,500
West Plains.....	6,000
Sand Creek.....	2,000

The cities are bonded as follows:

Meade.....	\$37,350
Plains.....	20,000
Fowler.....	29,300

The various school districts had in outstanding bonds, July 1st, 1915, as follows:

Joint No. 1.....	\$800
No. 2.....	23,500
No. 5.....	600
No. 10.....	1,000
No. 14.....	200
No. 16.....	10,000
No. 18.....	12,200
No. 22.....	400
No. 39.....	400
No. 58.....	600
No. 60.....	800
No. 61.....	1,200
No. 62.....	500
No. 66.....	1,000
No. 69.....	100



FRANK MARRS AND ONE OF HIS WELLS.

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

In the construction and maintenance of highways and bridges, Meade County has expended considerable money during the last ten years. In 1889 the Legislature enacted a law declaring all section lines in Meade County to be public highways. As the country was largely devoted to stock-raising, this law soon proved to be very objectionable to a majority of the citizens, and was repealed by Chapter 212 of the Laws of 1895.

So long as the country was used largely as a grazing proposition, little farming being done, there was but little use for roads, and very little money was expended on their upkeep. But as the country developed, as farmers required means for marketing their crops, and especially since the automobile has come into general use, the demand for more and better roads has been insistent, and Meade County today probably has better roads than any other county of the same population.

Up to this time 77 miles have been designated as county roads, as follows: A road extending from the northwest corner of the city of Plains north to the county line, 14 miles; extending from the southeast corner of the city of Plains south to the State line, practically 18 miles; a road extending north from Missler to the county line, 11 miles; a road connecting Plains, Meade and Fowler, located as follows: Commencing at the northeast corner of the city of Plains, thence 1 mile north, thence 5 miles east, thence 2 miles

north, thence 4 miles east, thence one half-mile south, thence 1 mile east, thence one half-mile south, to the northwest corner of Section 5, Township 32, Range 28; thence, commencing at the southeast corner of said Section 5 and extending east to the city of Meade; from Meade the road goes north about one half-mile, thence east one half-mile, then north 1 mile, east one half-mile, north 2 miles, east 1 mile, north 2 miles, thence east 6 miles, to Fowler, thence north from the northwest corner of Fowler 6 miles, to the county line.

It will be noted there is a gap in this road around Section 5, Township 32, Range 28. The reason for this is that when this road was designated the Commissioners were unable to determine whether the road should follow the section line around Section 5, or whether to angle through this section, and so this matter was left to be decided later.

All county roads are graded and dragged at the expense of the county, and many of the township roads are graded and dragged at the expense of the various townships.

The steel bridge across Crooked Creek, on Road No. 1, just east of Meade, was built in 1909, at a cost of \$1,765.

In 1910 three bridges were built under the same contract, the aggregate cost being \$5,381. These are all concrete bridges, and are known as the Brinekman bridge, crossing Crooked Creek on Road No. 88; the Bunyan bridge, crossing Crooked Creek on Road No. 68; and the Conrad bridge, crossing Crooked Creek on Road No. 6.

Eight bridges were built in 1913, all of concrete.

They are as follows: The Adams bridge, just north of Meade, on Road No. 72; cost \$1,776. Prior to this time a wooden bridge had stood here. The Pinnick bridge, on Road No. 3, about a mile west of Fowler, at a cost of \$1,500. The Watt bridge, on Road No. 63, across Crooked Creek, north of Fowler, at a cost of \$1,448. The Fancher bridge, across Sand Creek, on Road No. 39, Logan Township, at an original cost of \$1,375. Scarcely had this bridge been completed than high water caused the creek to cut a new channel, and it became necessary to extend the bridge at an additional cost of \$1,200. A bridge across Crooked Creek, on the line between Meade and Ford Counties, was built by the two counties jointly, each county paying the sum of \$545. This is on Road No. 54.

The McMeel bridge, just south of Meade, on Road No. 8, was built by Meade Center Township, the county contributing \$300. The Boyer bridge, on Road No. 32, was also built by the township, the county contributing \$400.

The year 1915 brought four bridges. On Road No. 32, across Skunk Arroya, in Odee Township, a cement ford was constructed at a cost of \$250. A low-water bridge was built across Stump Arroya, on Road No. 32, in Odee Township, at a cost of \$1,917.

The Stalder bridge, on Road No. 70, across Crooked Creek, in Meade Center Township, cost \$600; the Hughbanks bridge, on Road No. 32, Meade Center Township, cost \$2,355.80. This creek was spanned by a bridge which stood up for a year or two, but the high waters of 1915 undermined the foundation, wrecking the bridge, and making the construction of a larger and better one imperative.



A COOL DRINK.

About ten years ago the county built a low wooden bridge across the Cimarron river, on Road No. 95, at a cost of about \$750, of which the Meade Commercial Club paid one-third. This bridge was taken out by flood, and in 1909 the county built a one-hundred-foot span steel bridge where the wooden bridge had stood, at a cost of \$2,830. In 1913 the approach to the south end of this bridge burned out, and was replaced at a cost of \$388.

In May, 1914, a flood, the like of which is not in the memory of the oldest inhabitant, came down the Cimarron, taking this bridge out completely. When the waters subsided, of the structure costing more than three thousand dollars nothing remained save three or four pillars, the remainder of the bridge being buried somewhere in the treacherous sands, from which no part of it has ever been recovered.

AUTOMOBILES.

On August 29th, 1904, there was delivered to John W. Baughman, at Plains, the first automobile to enter Meade County. It was a two-passenger Winton Surrey, capable of a speed of fifteen miles an hour under favorable conditions, but there is no record of its ever having attained so great a velocity. In consideration of this car, which was a "second-hand" one, Mr. Baughman exchanged a quarter-section of land for which he had paid the sum of one hundred twenty-five dollars. Dr. Fee was the second Meade County man to own a car, and his first was of the old-style buggy type; and when C. P. Fullington appeared with his one-cylinder Cadillac and a regular chauffeur, Meade took on metropolitan airs.

On May 1st, 1916, there were 360 cars registered, of 43 different makes, classified as follows: Ford, 147; Overland, 35; Maxwell, 31; Reo, 25; Buick, 18; Studebaker, Hudson, and Dodge, 10 each; Allen, 9; E. M. F., 5; Chandler, Halliday, Flanders, Saxon, and Hupmobile, 4 each; Jackson, Brush, and Chalmers, 3 each; Moline, Regal, Case, Krit, Mitchell, and Oakland, 2 each; and 1 each of Lambert, Sterling, Paige, Apperson, Partin-Palmer, Glide, Detroit, Wescot, Metz, Paige-Detroit, Chevrolet, Dort, Mason, Carter, King, Auburn, Anchor, Jones, and Coey.

At the same time there were 73 motor-cycles, of the following makes: Harley-Davidson, 41; Indian, 16;

Excelsior, 9; Henderson, 2; and one each of Thor, Apache, Sears Leader, Light, and Pope.

Dealers' licenses were in effect for the Harley-Davidson motor-cycle, and for the following cars: Empire, Interstate, Ford, Detrouiter, Allen, Hupmobile, Krit, Halliday, Mcon, Maxwell, Hudson, Overland, Saxon, Buick, Dodge, Studebaker.



EARLY-DAY RESIDENCE.

THE COURT HOUSE.

During the county-seat fight it was generally understood that if the county seat were located at Meade Center the city would dedicate a block in the center of the town, designated on the official plat as "Block A," to the county, and would erect for the county a court house.

But, "the best-laid schemes of mice and men gang aft a-gley." Meade Center was designated as the county seat, but the proposed dedication of "Block A" to the county was never made, and neither was the court house ever built for the county.

The building originally used as a court house was a frame building on the south side of the alley of the block in which now stands the Southern Hotel, facing east. This building was rented by the county, and while some of the county officers maintained offices uptown, this was officially the court house, although court was held in the second story of a building located back of the present site of Fick's store, and facing north.

On March 3rd, 1888, the city of Meade obtained from Charles E. Cones a deed for Lots 13 and 14, in Block 3, original survey, and soon thereafter commenced the construction of the present court house, although it was built for, and known for years as, the city hall. It has been used as a court house practically ever since its completion.

In the summer of 1895 negotiations were had between the County Commissioners and the City Coun-



MEADE COUNTY COURT HOUSE.

cil of Meade, looking toward the purchase of this building by the county. The proposition was voted on at the general election in November, and carried by a vote of 288 to 39. The nominal consideration was five thousand dollars, which was paid in a round-about way. The Meade County Bank, which had failed and was then in the hands of George B. Cones, Trustee, was a depository of something like four thousand dollars of the county's funds. The city of Meade owed this bank; the city had not the money to pay the bank, and the bank lacked the necessary assets to make restoration to the county, and so the county took over the city hall, paying to the city of Meade the sum of \$950.56 and to the trustee of The Meade County Bank the sum of \$82.77, and thus released the bank from further obligation to the county. The city was released from further obligation to the bank, the two debts were wiped out, and the county acquired the present court house.

In April, 1911, the county purchased of George B. Cones two lots adjoining the court-house site, for a consideration of \$355.55, and in December, 1915, the county purchased of Lucy R. Allen eight lots adjoining these, for a consideration of \$1,600, so that the county now owns an entire half-block, a tract of ground suitable in area and location for a court house such as Meade County ought to have.

The present court house, while having served its purpose well in the past, is by no means adequate to the needs of the present, and it would be false economy to retain it much longer. Not a single office is sufficiently commodious to permit a proper transaction of

the business pertaining to that office; every vault is packed and crowded with records until it is a difficult proposition, oftentimes, to find the record of a particular thing required; the Commissioners have nowhere to meet save in the County Clerk's office, which office is of inadequate proportions for that purpose; there is but one jury-room, and that is so small as to be unsanitary; no record is absolutely safe, and a fire would do incalculable and irreparable damage.

A commodious, modern, fire-proof building could be constructed at a cost to each taxpayer of four dollars on every thousand dollars valuation of his property, and such a building would not only save money to every taxpayer in the way of lessened expense of upkeep and insurance, but the danger of damage or destruction of records would be eliminated, and such a building would add to the value of every tract and parcel of real property in the county.

Not only as a matter of pride, not only as a matter of convenience, not only as a matter of "safety first," but as a matter of dollars and cents, Meade County should have a new court house, and one that will meet the requirements of the future as well as the needs of the present.

THE SALT WELL.

One of the natural curiosities of Meade County is the salt well, about two miles south of Meade, the history of which commences at about the time of the first settlement.

The Jones & Plummer trail was the route of practically all travel between Fort Dodge and Fort Elliott. This trail passed east of the present site of Meade about a mile, extended south for several miles, and then turned westward. It was the practice of travelers, and more especially of freighters, to camp on Spring Creek the second night out of Fort Dodge. To reach this favorite camping-ground they would branch off of the main trail a mile or so south of the present city of Meade, and angle across the prairie in a southwesterly direction to the waters of Spring Creek, and a well-defined trail across this prairie had been established. On March 16th, 1879, a Mexican freighter passed along this accustomed route, and camped on Spring Creek. All was as usual at that time. On the 19th of March an American freighter, probably returning from Fort Elliott, discovered an immense "cave-in" on this branch trail to Spring Creek. One side of the road, or trail, was left intact, the other had disappeared. He proceeded to Dodge City and reported his strange discovery. Great interest was awakened, and many persons from Dodge and elsewhere came to view this remarkable work of Nature. Among the first to visit it was C. E. Haywood, and it is to him and to J. R.

Colgan that the author is principally indebted for the early history of this "well."

Many stories are extant concerning the depth of the salt well. One story is that Capt. Wirth let down six hundred feet of rope without finding bottom, and while this appears to be authenticated, yet it does not follow that the well was more than six hundred feet deep, because the water was so impregnated with salt that a human body would float round like a dry log, so it is not surprising that the rope, although attached to a weight, did not sink.

In May, 1879, J. R. Colgan took careful measurements of the depth, and found that from the top of the bank to the water was nineteen feet, and the water, at the deepest place, measured twenty-three feet. At that time the cavity was almost exactly circular, and was, according to the judgment of Mr. Colgan, about seventy-five feet in diameter; the side walls were perpendicular. At the present time the hole is almost perfectly circular, and measures two hundred feet in diameter. The increase in the diameter has been caused by subsequent caving of the banks, and by the wash of the rains of many years. The side walls, while not now perpendicular, are so precipitous that descent is impossible except in one or two places. The ground, for one hundred feet back from the hole, shows evidence of a tendency to cave; the caving and washing have filled the cavity until now the water is but a few feet deep at the deepest part, and no doubt subsequent cavings will fill it to a point above the water-line.

Many persons claim to have heard a great rumbling and roar, caused by the cave-in of this well. But when

we consider that the only settlers in Meade County at that time resided many miles from this place, too far distant to hear any disturbance there may have been, if any, which is doubtful, we should politely listen to such narrations and give them such credence as other fairy tales are entitled to.

In September, 1879, George B. Allen secured one gallon of water from this well, which he evaporated by boiling and obtained one quart of salt.

In the spring of 1880 William Sturgis commercialized the salt well in the manufacture of "Meade County Solar Salt." The water was pumped from the well by windmill into a vat, where it was evaporated by boiling; but this method did not prove a success, either through lack of knowledge or lack of proper equipment, as the salt obtained had a dirty, rusty appearance. This plan of evaporation was early abandoned and the water allowed to evaporate by the sun's rays, and by this method an exceptionally good quality of clean salt was secured, which was placed in 50-lb. sacks and sold, at the plant, for \$1 per cwt. Twenty-two vats, each measuring twelve by sixteen feet, were used, and the quantity of salt procured was from two thousand to two thousand five hundred pounds daily. At this time one gallon of water produced one pint of salt. After a year or two Mr. Sturgis sold his plant to one John Ristrem (spelling not vouched for) who continued to operate it for a year or two, and then suspended operations for the reason that the quantity of salt derived from a given volume of water gradually decreased until "salt-making" became unprofitable. Also, there were no means of transportation except by



THE SALT WELL.

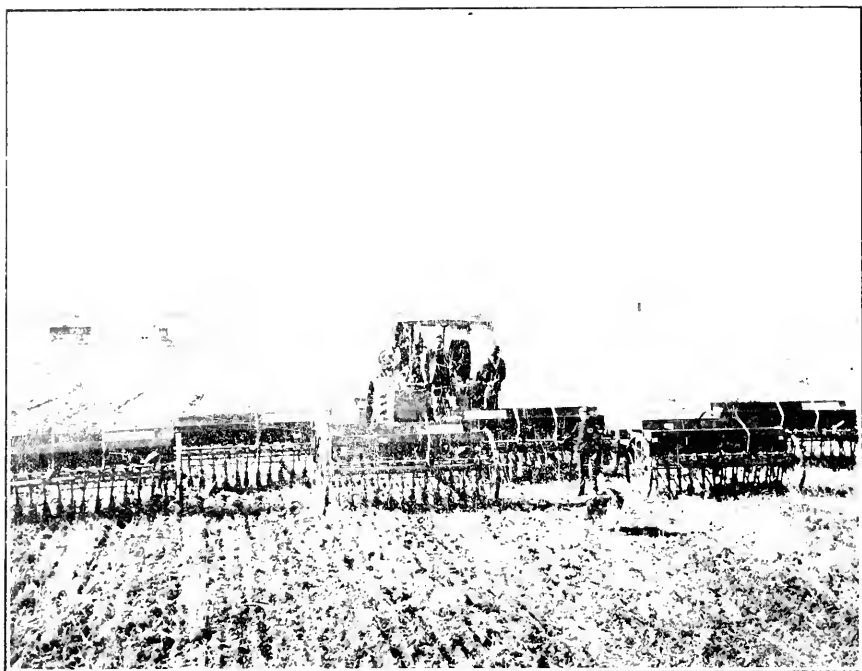
freight wagons, and the output was always limited to the local demand.

The second year the salt-works were operated what was considered a strange phenomenon was observed. It had been customary for people to bathe in the well, the impossibility of sinking, the ability to float around without effort, making this recreation especially delightful. At this time one who had gone into the water for the first time made haste to come out, and announced that "the water was scalding." Investigation proved that while the water at the surface was of the ordinary temperature, at a depth of about two feet it was noticeably warmer, and at a depth of five or six feet was almost "scalding." The experience of bathers ever after was, that the water increased in temperature with the depth, and this fact gave origin to the theory of hot springs under the bed of the well and that the hot water escaped upward through some orifice. This theory, however, has been proven fallacious. If this were true the difference in temperature would be as great, perhaps greater, in winter than in summer. But tests have proved that the temperature of the surface-water and of water at the bottom of the well is practically the same in winter. The true explanation is that the salt, and other minerals in solution, readily absorb the sun's heat, and the heat thus absorbed is retained by the lower particles, while the particles near the surface give off their heat at night. Hence the water near the surface would at no time contain more heat than had been absorbed from the sun on the given day, while the lower waters, giving off the heat less readily, would retain a portion of every

day's absorption and thus become pregnant with stored heat.

The well was a favorite resort for bathers up until ten or twelve years ago, and during all of that time the solution of salt was so great that one's body would float as readily as would a log in ordinary fresh water. Various tests have been made to ascertain the amount of salt in this water, the per cent varying considerably at different times. It has tested as high as thirty-six per cent, but the amount at the present time is negligible. In June, 1916, the writer procured two quarts of this water. It had a pronounced alkaline taste, but on being evaporated by boiling, no salt, nor other sediment, remained. What a chemical analysis would show I do not know, but, so far as the naked eye could discern, the entire volume of these two quarts was converted into steam. This water was taken from the surface; it might be that a sample taken from the bottom would still disclose the presence of salt.

The water now stands at practically the same level as originally. The shallow water, along the banks, is transparently clear, but the deeper parts present a dark-green appearance. It sustains no animal or vegetable life, save a few insects, except that the writer has observed a solitary muskrat disporting, and, apparently, enjoying himself therein.



DRILLING THE WHEAT.

FARM STATISTICS.

The following tables show the population of the county by years, and statistics of the principal farm products, from 1886 to 1915 inclusive :

1886. —POPULATION, 3,827.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat bu.	501	7,056
Spring wheat "	5	50
Rye "	125	1,500
Corn "	12,151	303,775
Barley "	5	100
Oats "	2,678	80,340
Buckwheat "	7	105
Irish potatoes "	389	29,175
Sweet potatoes "	90	9,000
Castor Beans "	61	610
Cotton "	1	300
Tobacco lbs.	12	7,200
Broom corn "	17	23,500
Millet tons	4,617	9,231
Prairie hay "		6,968
Poultry and eggs sold		81,869
Butter, lbs.		15,105
Cheese, lbs.		445
Milk sold		886
Garden products sold		81,551
	<i>Number</i>	
Horses		1,285
Mules and asses		406
Milk cows		938
Other cattle		2,325
Swine		475
Sheep		1,024

1887. — POPULATION, 4,407.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat bu.	797	7,690
Spring wheat "		
Corn "	13,627	204,405
Oats "	1,874	56,220
Rye "	124	1,240
Barley "	101	2,020
Buckwheat "	8	120
Irish potatoes "	291	23,280
Sweet potatoes "	72	7,200
Castor beans "	6	60
Cotton lbs.	2	500
Flax bu.	1	10
Tobacco lbs.	5	3,000
Broom corn "	27	16,200
Millet tons	5,577	11,154
Prairie hay "		4,030
	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Value</i>
Poultry and eggs sold		\$3,994.00
Wool clip lbs.	3,170	570.60
Cheese "	300	36.00
Butter "	34,698	5,204.70
Milk sold		132.00
Horticultural products marketed		65.00
Garden products marketed		3,667.00
	<i>Number</i>	
Horses	1,651	
Mules and asses	508	
Milk cows	1,476	
Other cattle	1,254	
Sheep	857	
Swine	1,152	

1888. — POPULATION, 4,561.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat bu.	133	2,394
Spring wheat		

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Corn	bu. 16,560	165,600
Oats	" 3,891	97,275
Rye	" 95	1,110
Barley	" 25	125
Buckwheat	" 1	60
Irish potatoes	" 315	12,600
Sweet potatoes	" 111	8,610
Castor beans	" 38	190
Cotton	lbs.	.....
Flax	bu. 149	745
Tobacco	lbs. 5	3,000
Broom corn	" 434	217,000
Millet	tons 8,036	16,072
Prairie hay	"	5,828
	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Value</i>
Poultry and eggs sold	.....	84,234.00
Wool clip	.....	.....
Cheese	lbs. 481	57.72
Butter	" 65,461	11,782.98
Milk sold	.....	2,554.00
Horticultural products marketed	.....	.....
Garden products marketed	.....	2,415.00
	<i>Number</i>	
Horses	.....	1,927
Mules and asses	.....	608
Milch cows	.....	1,897
Other cattle	.....	5,291
Sheep	.....	1,719
Swine	.....	1,716

1889. POPULATION, 3,596.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat	bu. 3,336	40,032
Spring wheat	" 45	450
Corn	" 12,580	125,800
Oats	" 2,712	51,528
Rye	" 558	10,044

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Barley.....bu.	76	1,900
Buckwheat....."	17	255
Irish potatoes....."	187	3,740
Sweet potatoes....."	132	6,600
Castor beans....."	161	966
Flax....."	111	999
Cotton.....lbs.	4	1,200
Tobacco....."	3	1,800
Broom corn....."	359	215,400
Millet.....tons	4,260	8,452
Prairie hay....."		4,140
Poultry and eggs.....		\$3,659
Butter, lbs.....		59,043
Milk sold.....		8905
Wool clip, lbs.....		7,890
Garden products sold.....		\$1,078
Horticultural.....		\$1,400
	<i>Number</i>	
Horses.....	1,499	
Mules and asses.....	411	
Milk cows.....	2,308	
Other cattle.....	5,508	
Swine.....	1,007	
Sheep.....	652	

1890.—POPULATION, 2,651.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat.....bu.	2,779	27,790
Spring wheat....."	208	1,540
Corn....."	189	945
Oats....."	1,256	12,560
Rye....."	730	8,760
Barley....."		
Buckwheat....."	3	18
Irish potatoes....."	132	1,320
Sweet potatoes....."	46	1,400
Castor beans....."	292	1,460

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Flax	109	654
Cotton		
Tobacco		
Broom corn	327	81,750
Millet	2,212	2,212
Prairie hay		1,708
Poultry and eggs		81,831
Butter, lbs.		51,012
Milk sold		
Wool clip, lbs.		5,900
Garden products sold		81,202
Horticultural		
		<i>Number</i>
Horse		1,323
Mules and asses		276
Milch cows		1,927
Other cattle		8,297
Swine		1,100
Sheep		1,467

1891. POPULATION, 1,831.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat	7,714	100,282
Spring wheat	52	624
Corn	3,540	88,500
Oats	590	17,700
Rye	216	6,048
Buckwheat		
Irish potatoes	35	2,275
Sweet potatoes	10	1,000
Castor beans	41	369
Cotton	1	250
Flax	21	168
Broom corn	204	81,600
Millet	1,287	1,930
Alfalfa	210	73
Prairie hay		2,959

	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Value</i>
Poultry and eggs sold	.....	\$2,523.00
Wool clip	lbs. 9,320	1,677.60
Cheese	" 2,045	224.95
Butter	" 49,281	7,392.15
Milk sold	.....	240.00
Garden products marketed	.....	1,576.00
Horticultural products marketed	.....	16.00
	<i>Number</i>	
Horses	.....	1,432
Mules and asses	.....	201
Milk cows	.....	1,447
Other cattle	.....	8,536
Sheep	.....	2,100
Swine	.....	1,026

1892. -- POPULATION, 2,028.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat	bu. 8,773	158,114
Spring wheat	" 390	4,680
Corn	" 4,213	25,278
Oats	" 964	23,136
Rye	" 3,269	98,070
Buckwheat	" 11	110
Irish potatoes	" 63	1,890
Sweet potatoes	" 5	200
Castor beans	" .....	.....
Cotton	lbs. ....	.....
Flax	bu. ....	.....
Broom corn	lbs. 382	114,600
Millet	tons 1,811	1,841
Alfalfa	" 627	2,380
Prairie hay	"	1,822
	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Value</i>
Poultry and eggs sold	.....	\$2,465.00
Wool clip	lbs. 15,010	2,551.70
Cheese	" 2,787	306.57

	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Value</i>
Butter	lbs. 35,807	85,374.05
Milk sold		31.00
Garden products marketed		1,955.00
Horticultural products marketed		6,273.00
	<i>Number</i>	
Horses	1,532	
Mules and asses	170	
Milk cows	1,131	
Other cattle	9,088	
Sheep	1,911	
Swine	785	

1893. POPULATION, 2,018.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat	bu. 15,299	16,518
Spring wheat	" 250	
Corn	" 4,556	
Oats	" 934	7,472
Rye	" 2,379	11,895
Barley	" 4,940	49,400
Irish potatoes	" 51	1,020
Sweet potatoes	" 16	800
Broom corn	lbs. 829	207,250
Millet	tons 816	816
Milo maize	" 465	1,395
Kaffir corn	" 1,210	2,420
Jerusalem corn	" 60	90
Alfalfa	" 896	1,494
Prairie hay	" 3,932	3,932
	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Value</i>
Milk sold		31.00
Poultry and eggs		82,552.00
Wool clip	lbs. 13,297	2,127.52
Cheese	" 3,080	338.80
Butter	" 40,114	6,466.24
Garden products marketed		1,783.00
Horticultural products		35.00

	<i>Number</i>
Horses.....	2,106
Mules and asses.....	215
Milch cows.....	1,202
Other cattle.....	10,653
Sheep.....	2,184
Swine.....	862

1894.—POPULATION, 2,025.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat..... bu.	20,492	64,547
Spring wheat..... "	17	.....
Corn..... "	1,655	.....
Oats..... "	310	1,807
Rye..... "	1,811	14,488
Barley..... "	2,951	35,412
Irish potatoes..... "	48	1,920
Sweet potatoes..... "	6	522
Broom corn..... lbs.	150	45,000
Millet..... tons	444	222
Milo maize..... "	215	2,150
Kaffir corn..... "	2,507	25,070
Jerusalem corn..... "	15	150
Alfalfa..... "	958	1,478
Prairie hay..... "	.....	4,418
	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Value</i>
Milk sold.....	.....	\$125.00
Poultry and eggs sold.....	.....	2,537.00
Wool clip..... lbs.	13,065	1,698.45
Cheese..... "	2,815	337.80
Butter..... "	42,809	6,849.44
Garden products marketed.....	.....	1,046.00
Horticultural products.....	.....	.....
	<i>Number</i>	
Horses.....	2,339	
Mules and asses.....	167	
Milch cows.....	1,154	
Other cattle.....	6,305	
Sheep.....	3,152	
Swine.....	765	

1895. POPULATION, 1,741.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat bu.	16,093	32,186
Spring wheat "	133	
Corn "	3,094	21,648
Oats "	421	5,052
Rye "	2,341	11,705
Barley "	4,318	69,568
Buckwheat "	40	160
Irish potatoes "	59	1,770
Sweet potatoes "	27	1,026
Cotton lbs.	10	8,000
Flax bu.	6	24
Tobacco lbs.	2	1,400
Broom corn "	235	117,500
Millet tons	324	324
Sorghum for syrup gals.	49	1,960
Milo maize tons	240	720
Kaffir corn "	1,944	5,832
Jerusalem corn "	30	90
Alfalfa "	1,117	2,060
Prairie hay "		13,086
	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Value</i>
Poultry and eggs sold		\$1,411.00
Wool clip lbs.	27,900	2,511.00
Cheese "	2,769	290.75
Butter "	42,009	5,461.17
Milk sold		42.00
Garden products marketed		2,771.00
Horticultural products marketed		171.00
	<i>Number</i>	
Horses	1,926	
Mules and asses	133	
Milk cows	1,030	
Other cattle	7,115	
Sheep	5,550	
Swine	713	

1896.—POPULATION, 1,651.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat.....bu.	8,954	17,908
Spring wheat....."	43	.....
Corn....."	2,025	10,125
Oats....."	548	3,288
Rye....."	1,196	5,980
Barley....."	4,915	12,015
Buckwheat....."	5	.....
Irish potatoes....."	91	910
Sweet potatoes....."	13	.....
Cotton.....lbs.		.....
Flax.....bu.	7	.....
Tobacco.....lbs.		.....
Broom corn....."	139	41,700
Millet.....tons	782	261
Sorghum for syrup.....gals.	40	2,000
Milo maize.....tons	160	320
Kaffir corn....."	2,517	5,034
Jerusalem corn....."	35	35
Alfalfa....."	1,577	2,321
Prairie hay....."		6,234
	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Value</i>
Poultry and eggs sold.....		\$2,182.00
Wool clip.....lbs.	32,727	2,945.43
Cheese....."	2,932	234.56
Butter....."	38,233	1,265.63
Milk sold.....		.....
Garden products marketed.....		2,375.00
Horticultural products marketed.....		181.00
	<i>Number</i>	
Horses.....	2,531	
Mules and asses.....	145	
Milk cows.....	1,109	
Other cattle.....	9,343	
Sheep.....	6,269	
Swine.....	704	

1897.—POPULATION, 1,566.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat.....bu.	3,313	39,756
Spring wheat....."		
Corn....."	2,280	22,800
Oats....."	259	4,444
Rye....."	444	5,328
Barley....."	1,749	34,980
Buckwheat....."	5	50
Irish potatoes....."	17	765
Sweet potatoes....."	9	540
Castor beans....."	1	5
Broom corn.....lbs.	40	17,000
Millet.....tons	952	1,666
Sorghum (syrup).....gals.	352	17,600
Milo maize.....tons	187	701
Kaffir corn....."	2,418	9,067
Alfalfa....."	1,286	8,055
Prairie hay....."		4,121
Poultry and eggs sold.....		\$1,944
Butter, lbs.....		37,309
Cheese, lbs.....		1,975
Milk sold.....		858
Wool clip, lbs.....		27,300
Garden products sold.....		\$710
Horticultural.....		\$310
	<i>Number</i>	
Horses.....	2,269	
Mules and asses.....	116	
Milk cows.....	876	
Other cattle.....	41,407	
Swine.....	551	
Sheep.....	3,220	

1898.—POPULATION, 1,562.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat.....bu.	5,805	46,440
Spring wheat....."	12	60

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Corn.....bu.	1,526	19,838
Oats....."	433	6,495
Rye....."	1,112	11,120
Barley....."	3,107	77,675
Buckwheat....."		
Irish potatoes....."	36	1,800
Sweet potatoes....."	12	600
Castor beans....."		
Broom corn.....lbs.	25	10,000
Millet.....tons	1,067	2,134
Sorghum (syrup).....gals.	58	2,900
Milo maize.....tons	62	217
Kaffir corn....."	2,501	6,878
Alfalfa....."	2,323	12,103
Prairie hay....."		7,224
Poultry and eggs sold.....		\$2,582
Butter, lbs.....		36,975
Cheese, lbs.....		5,395
Milk sold.....		\$102
Wool clip, lbs.....		21,049
Garden products sold.....		\$959
Horticultural.....		\$684
	<i>Number</i>	
Horses.....	2,568	
Mules and asses.....	127	
Milch cows.....	1,396	
Other cattle.....	20,545	
Swine.....	635	
Sheep.....	3,937	

1899. - POPULATION, 1,541.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat.....bu.	5,113	20,452
Spring wheat....."	6	18
Corn....."	1,526	22,890
Oats....."	210	4,200

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Rye	bu. 316	2,212
Barley	" 1,357	13,570
Irish potatoes	" 46	960
Sweet potatoes	" 5	250
Broom corn	lbs. 35	10,500
Millet	tons 1,483	2,966
Sorghum (syrup)	gals. 45	1,800
Milo maize	tons 70	140
Kaffir corn	" 3,485	10,455
Alfalfa	" 2,385	12,524
Prairie hay	"	8,220

Poultry and eggs sold	\$2,460
Butter, lbs.	27,960
Milk sold,	\$240
Wool clip, lbs.	25,600
Cheese, lbs.	3,400
Garden products sold	\$1,269
Horticultural, sold	\$125

	<i>Number</i>
Horses	2,793
Mules and asses	162
Milk cows	976
Other cattle	24,525
Swine	930
Sheep	4,755

1900.—POPULATION, 1,521.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat	bu. 3,884	69,912
Spring wheat	" 30	300
Corn	" 2,068	11,476
Oats	" 146	2,771
Rye	" 49	686
Barley	" 2,560	71,680
Irish potatoes	" 21	1,239
Sweet potatoes	" 6	390

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Broom corn.....lbs.	10	2,750
Millet.....tons	2,080	3,120
Sorghum (syrup).....gals.	23	1,150
Milo maize.....tons	63	158
Kaffir corn....."	4,900	12,250
Alfalfa....."	2,317	13,869
Prairie hay....."		5,493
Poultry and eggs sold.....		\$3,178
Butter, lbs.....		28,784
Milk sold.....		\$160
Wool clip, lbs.....		18,700
Cheese, lbs.....		1,200
Garden products sold.....		\$717
Horticultural products sold.....		\$107
	<i>Number</i>	
Horses.....	2,735	
Mules and asses.....	174	
Milch cows.....	1,088	
Other cattle.....	24,000	
Swine.....	956	
Sheep.....	4,317	

1901.—POPULATION, 1,526.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat.....bu.	7,194	86,328
Spring wheat....."	28	196
Corn....."	1,857	5,571
Oats....."	281	5,058
Rye....."	602	5,418
Barley....."	3,419	58,123
Irish potatoes....."	20	740
Sweet potatoes....."	13	741
Broom corn.....lbs.	70	28,000
Sorghum.....gals.	5,500	
Millet.....tons	1,099	1,099
Milo maize....."	59	118

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Kaffir corn.....tons	5,458	5,458
Jerusalem....."	15	30
Alfalfa....."	3,296	8,906
Prairie hay....."		7,502
Poultry and eggs.....		\$4,183
Butter, lbs.....		35,960
Milk sold.....		\$11
Wool clip, lbs.....		20,400
Honey and beeswax, lbs.....		40
Garden products sold.....		\$1,565
Horticultural.....		\$390
	<i>Number</i>	
Horses.....	2,886	
Mules and asses.....	132	
Milch cows.....	984	
Other cattle.....	27,185	
Swine.....	820	
Sheep.....	2,183	

1902.—POPULATION, 1,573.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat.....bu.	11,219	67,314
Spring wheat....."		
Corn....."	3,430	41,160
Oats....."	143	3,146
Rye....."	1,265	8,855
Barley....."	2,804	58,884
Irish potatoes....."	9	720
Sweet potatoes....."		
Broom corn.....lbs.	5	1,500
Sorghum.....gals.	5,034	
Millet.....tons	403	605
Milo maize....."	175	525
Kaffir corn....."	4,562	13,686
Jerusalem....."	42	126
Alfalfa....."	3,432	11,807
Prairie hay....."		4,257

Poultry and eggs	\$4,201
Butter, lbs	35,247
Milk sold	\$385
Wool clip, lbs	13,000
Honey and beeswax, lbs	
Garden products sold	\$1,799
Horticultural	

	<i>Number</i>
Horses	2,756
Mules and asses	132
Milch cows	825
Other cattle	27,460
Swine	602
Sheep	4,736

1903.—POPULATION, 1,592.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat, bu.	11,489	206,802
Spring wheat	40	560
Corn	1,792	17,920
Oats	308	7,392
Rye	743	9,659
Barley	4,628	138,840
Irish potatoes	21	1,470
Sweet potatoes	24	1,800
Buckwheat		
Flax	27	162
Broom corn, lbs.		
Sorghum (syrup), gals.	38	2,660
Millet, tons	588	1,176
Milo maize	156	312
Kaffir corn	1,378	8,756
Jerusalem	10	20
Alfalfa	5,026	13,907
Prairie hay		5,948
Poultry and eggs sold		\$5,173
Butter, lbs		30,611

Milk sold	8735
Wool clip, lbs	12,000
Honey and beeswax, lbs	10
Garden products sold	\$1,105
Horticultural	

	<i>Number</i>
Horses	2,776
Mules and asses	129
Milk cows	1,003
Other cattle	24,548
Swine	777
Sheep	1,170

1904. POPULATION, 2,102.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat	18,450	36,900
Spring wheat	478	1,912
Corn	1,286	19,290
Oats	507	2,535
Rye	1,015	8,120
Barley	8,368	100,416
Irish potatoes	29	1,508
Sweet potatoes	4	260
Buckwheat	38	190
Flax	4	20
Broom corn	127	38,100
Sorghum (syrup)	30	2,100
Millet	315	315
Milo maize	182	364
Kaffir corn	4,906	9,812
Jerusalem	22	44
Alfalfa	6,348	16,506
Prairie hay		4,957
Poultry and eggs sold		\$7,530
Butter, lbs		38,401
Milk sold		\$1,214

Wool clip, lbs.	15,000
Honey and beeswax, lbs.	100
Garden products sold.	\$1,450
Horticultural.	\$154

	<i>Number</i>
Horses.	3,360
Mules and asses.	216
Milch cows.	1,129
Other cattle.	29,805
Swine.	1,177
Sheep.	1,850

1905.—POPULATION, 2,187.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat. bu.	28,360	368,680
Spring wheat. "	1,240	12,400
Corn. "	1,591	25,456
Oats. "	735	13,965
Rye. "	412	4,532
Barley. "	10,203	256,075
Irish potatoes. "	58	3,480
Sweet potatoes. "	6	198
Broom corn. lbs.	125	56,250
Sorghum. gals.	5,379	.....
Millet. tons	987	987
Milo maize. "	277	574
Kaffir corn. "	5,367	10,734
Jerusalem. "	83	166
Alfalfa. "	8,422	13,600
Prairie hay. .... "	.....	6,834
Flax. bu.	.....	.....
Poultry and eggs. ....	.....	\$7,673
Butter, lbs. ....	.....	51,327
Milk sold. ....	.....	\$2,665
Wool clip, lbs. ....	.....	.....
Honey and beeswax, lbs. ....	.....	299

	<i>Number</i>
Horses.....	3,572
Mules and asses.....	214
Milch cows.....	1,306
Other cattle.....	28,002
Swine.....	1,525
Sheep.....	1,701

1906.—POPULATION, 2,574.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat.....bu.	24,186	338,604
Spring wheat....."	1,278	16,611
Corn....."	1,675	41,875
Oats....."	612	14,688
Rye....."	362	4,344
Barley....."	10,049	211,029
Irish potatoes....."	51	3,723
Sweet potatoes....."	10	560
Broom corn....."	194	87,300
Sorghum.....gals.	4,787	.....
Millet.....tons	561	1,122
Milo maize....."	785	2,747
Kaffir corn....."	6,081	21,283
Jerusalem....."	20	70
Alfalfa....."	10,570	17,562
Prairie hay....."	.....	4,743
Flax.....bu.	3	24
Poultry and eggs.....	.....	\$11,176
Butter, lbs.....	.....	49,326
Milk sold.....	.....	\$2,137
Wool clip, lbs.....	.....	1,100
Honey and beeswax, lbs.....	.....	.....
Horses.....		<i>Number</i>
Mules and asses.....		263
Milch cows.....		1,355
Other cattle.....		22,768
Swine.....		1,484
Sheep.....		1,001

1907.—POPULATION, 3,430.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat	bu. 50,409	504,090
Spring wheat	" 4,063	32,504
Corn	" 6,796	169,900
Oats	" 1,480	23,680
Rye	" 193	1,544
Barley	" 13,358	173,654
Speltz . . . . .	" . . . . .	. . . . .
Buckwheat . . . . .	" . . . . .	. . . . .
Irish potatoes	" 90	5,220
Sweet potatoes	" 6	540
Cotton	lbs. 5	1,375
Flax	bu. . . . .	. . . . .
Tobacco	lbs. . . . .	. . . . .
Broom corn	" 420	189,000
Millet	tons 1,002	1,503
Sugar beets . . . . .	" . . . . .	. . . . .
Sorghum (syrup)	gals. 18	1,260
Milo maize	tons 1,336	3,340
Kaffir corn	" 9,652	24,130
Alfalfa	" 9,080	19,638
Prairie hay	"	3,869
Poultry and eggs sold		\$17,041
Butter, lbs.		55,995
Honey and beeswax, lbs.		348
Milk sold		\$2,331
	<i>Number</i>	
Horses	4,326	
Mules and asses	400	
Milk cows	1,595	
Other cattle	18,556	
Swine	2,317	
Sheep	710	

1908. POPULATION, 1,366.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat	bu. 53,330	266,650
Spring wheat	" 673	2,093
Corn	" 11,153	111,530
Oats	" 2,839	22,712
Rye	" 193	1,351
Barley	" 10,782	53,910
Speltz	" 610	6,100
Buckwheat	" 2	20
Irish potatoes	" 100	8,000
Sweet potatoes	" 9	675
Cotton	lbs. "	"
Flax	bu. 5	25
Tobacco	lbs. 1	150
Broom corn	" 332	99,600
Millet	tons 1,520	1,520
Sugar beets	" 20	40
Sorghum (syrup)	gals. 231	13,860
Milo maize	tons 2,707	6,767
Kaffir corn	" 14,089	35,222
Alfalfa	" 9,888	14,834
Prairie hay	" "	4,168
		<i>Value</i>
Poultry and eggs sold		\$17,061
Butter, lbs.		57,713
Honey and beeswax, lbs		55
Milk sold		82,793
		<i>Number</i>
Horses		4,779
Mules and asses		622
Milk cows		1,885
Other cattle		17,481
Swine		5,900
Sheep		8

1909.—POPULATION, 4,594.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat.....bu.	62,646	563,814
Spring wheat....."	290	1,780
Corn....."	17,058	85,290
Oats....."	3,379	40,548
Rye....."	158	1,422
Barley....."	6,789	67,980
Speltz....."	1,397	16,764
Buckwheat....."	72	576
Irish potatoes....."	47	2,585
Cotton....."		
Broom corn.....lbs.	725	253,750
Millet.....tons	1,910	2,865
Sugar beets....."	2	18
Sorghum (syrup).....gals.	138	6,900
Milo maize.....tons	7,328	10,992
Kaffir corn....."	15,595	23,392
Alfalfa....."	10,964	14,233
Prairie hay....."		3,722
		<i>Value</i>
Poultry and eggs sold.....		\$18,694
Butter, lbs.....		63,912
Milk sold.....		\$3,258
Honey and beeswax, lbs.....		275
		<i>Number</i>
Horses.....		4,648
Mules and asses.....		678
Milch cows.....		1,899
Other cattle.....		15,567
Swine.....		6,260
Sheep.....		93

1910.—POPULATION, 4,872.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat.....bu.	73,263	732,630
Spring wheat....."	546	4,850
Corn....."	10,964	109,640

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Oats.....bu.	7,903	126,448
Rye....."	396	3,960
Barley....."	9,081	151,377
Speltz....."	2,131	36,227
Buckwheat....."	10	90
Irish potatoes....."	388	29,100
Cotton....."	3	600
Broom corn.....lbs.	2,183	818,625
Millet.....tons	1,759	2,931
Sugar beets....."		
Sorghum (syrup).....gals.	9	450
Milo maize.....tons	5,586	13,965
Kaffir corn....."	11,356	34,068
Alfalfa....."	11,275	11,146
Prairie hay....."		3,930
		<i>Value</i>
Poultry and eggs sold.....		\$19,747
Butter, lbs.....		79,230
Milk sold.....		83,390
Honey and beeswax, lbs.....		100
		<i>Number</i>
Horses.....		4,923
Mules and asses.....		708
Milch cows.....		1,918
Other cattle.....		13,936
Swine.....		3,782
Sheep.....		283

1911. — POPULATION, 5,171.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat.....bu.	29,857	119,428
Spring wheat....."	694	1,388
Corn....."	18,040	234,520
Oats....."	9,154	119,012
Rye....."	365	3,285
Barley....."	12,145	133,595

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Speltz.....bu.	1,332	7,992
Irish potatoes....."	111	3,774
Sweet pot. toes....."	8	504
Broom corn.....lbs.	604	232,540
Millet.....tons	1,092	1,638
Sorghum for syrup.....gals.	66	3,960
Milo maize.....tons	11,057	27,643
Kaffir corn....."	17,992	53,976
Jerusalem corn....."	93	279
Alfalfa....."	11,863	12,836
Prairie hay....."		3,261

	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Value</i>
Poultry and eggs sold.....		\$26,667.00
Wool clip.....lbs.	2,748	467.16
Cheese....."	220	28.60
Butter....."	108,414	26,019.36
Milk sold.....		6,303.00
Honey and beeswax.....lbs.	120	18.00

	<i>Number</i>
Horses.....	6,050
Mules and asses.....	1,015
Milch cows.....	4,883
Other cattle.....	9,039
Sheep.....	748
Swine.....	3,803

1912. —POPULATION, 5,196.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat.....bu.	103,889	124,668
Spring wheat....."	160	1,600
Corn....."	5,936	136,528
Oats....."	3,095	86,660
Rye....."	58	580
Barley....."	7,008	154,176
Speltz....."	312	6,552
Irish potatoes....."	93	9,207

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Sweet potatoes.....	bu. 4	340
Broom corn.....	lbs. 1,243	197,200
Millet.....	tons 1,352	2,366
Sorghum for syrup.....	gals. 799	59,925
Milo maize.....	tons 8,347	16,694
Kaffir corn.....	" 18,865	56,595
Jerusalem corn.....	" 20	60
Alfalfa.....	" 9,486	14,991
Prairie hay.....	"	2,541

	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Value</i>
Poultry and eggs sold.....	.....	\$24,103.00
Wool clip.....	lbs. 500	100.00
Cheese.....	" .....	.....
Butter.....	" 86,586	21,646.50
Milk sold.....	.....	11,251.00
Honey and beeswax.....	lbs. 220	33.00

	<i>Number</i>
Horses.....	6,390
Mules and asses.....	1,413
Milch cows.....	6,964
Other cattle.....	9,872
Sheep.....	702
Swine.....	3,517

1913. — POPULATION, 5,116.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat.....	bu. 22,990	91,960
Spring wheat.....	" 104	.....
Corn.....	" 15,341	30,692
Oats.....	" 8,933	26,799
Rye.....	" 66	198
Barley.....	" 11,212	41,848
Speltz.....	" 47	.....
Irish potatoes.....	" 64	2,176
Sweet potatoes.....	" .....	.....
Broom corn.....	lbs. 550	\$2,500

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Millet tons	911	911
Milo. "	16,291	12,218
Kaffir. "	30,857	23,143
Feterita.		
Alfalfa. "	7,468	9,164
Prairie hay. "		3,985
		<i>Value</i>
Poultry and eggs sold.		\$26,152
Butter, lbs.		65,528
Milk sold.		\$15,159
Cheese, lbs.		175
		<i>Number</i>
Horses		5,762
Mules and asses.		1,492
Milch cows.		6,321
Other cattle.		11,238
Swine.		2,050
Sheep		157

1914.--POPULATION, 5,044.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat. bu.	102,984	1,853,712
Spring wheat "		
Corn. "	4,219	67,504
Oats "	3,610	108,300
Rye. "	381	6,096
Barley "	6,123	134,706
Speltz. "	25	625
Irish potatoes. "	52	2,600
Sweet potatoes "	2	124
Broom corn lbs.	227	90,800
Millet tons	443	664
Milo. "	7,327	48,318
Kaffir "	16,563	49,689
Feterita "	4,533	11,333
Alfalfa. "	7,474	24,247
Prairie hay "		1,796

	<i>Value</i>
Poultry and eggs sold.....	\$26,326
Butter, lbs.....	51,568
Milk sold.....	\$25,135
Cheese, lbs.....	210
	<i>Number</i>
Horses.....	6,220
Mules and asses.....	1,311
Milk cows.....	69,605
Other cattle.....	9,950
Swine.....	2,361
Sheep.....	183

1915.—POPULATION, 5,276.

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Product</i>
Winter wheat.....bu.	107,608	1,614,120
Spring wheat.....	206	2,472
Corn.....	4,127	119,683
Oats.....	4,762	133,336
Rye.....	506	7,084
Barley.....	8,801	220,025
Irish potatoes.....	40	4,000
Sweet potatoes.....	1	100
Cowpeas.....tons	15	22
Alfalfa.....	9,593	28,779
Broom corn.....lbs.	274	123,300
Jerusalem corn.....	285	855
Feterita.....	8,527	No record
Sweet clover.....	40	No record
Prairie hay.....	.....	5,195
	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Value</i>
Poultry and eggs sold.....	.....	\$2,534,506.47
Wool clip.....lbs.	1,072	235.84
Cheese.....	350	52.50
Butter.....	63,355	15,838.75
Milk sold.....	.....	31,569.00
Honey and beeswax.....lbs.	500	70.00

	<i>Number</i>
Horses	6,639
Mules and asses	1,530
Milch cows	9,176
Other cattle	18,553
Sheep	182
Swine	4,714

The 1916 census gave Meade County a population of 6,053.

THE OLD CALABOOSE.

(I have not been able to find anyone who would vouch for the historical accuracy of this chapter. This story was suggested by the old calaboose itself, and if the incidents related did not actually occur, no doubt a true recital of the facts would be even more interesting and more startling.)

Standing in the rear of a modern building facing Main street, and used as a storeroom for various odds and ends, is a small old weather-worn building of peculiar construction, a glance at which excites one's curiosity and impels a closer examination. In dimensions it is about twelve by sixteen feet, eight feet high in front and sloping to six feet in the rear. It is built of pine boards, or planks, two inches thick and eight inches wide, commonly known as 2x8's, laid flatwise one upon the other and spiked together, forming a solid wall eight inches thick. In one end is a window about twelve by fourteen inches, iron-barred, giving the structure the appearance of a prison. And a prison it is—or was. In the early days, when the city was composed largely of saloons and dance-halls, and infested by cowboys, gamblers, and bad men and women, it served as the "bastile" in which were imprisoned temporarily the murderer, the cow-thief, the drunkard, the common bum, and in fact all who for any reason came within the grasp of the strong arm of the law—the law as administered by the Justice Court of Hiram Smith, J. P.

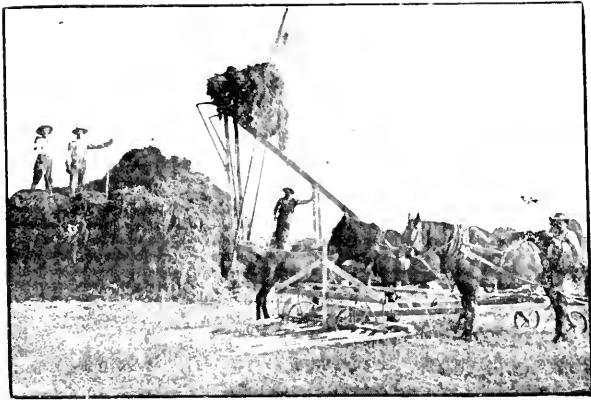
In those wild days, when drunkenness, carousing, gambling, thieving and kindred crimes and misde-

meanors were common, and murder was by no means uncommon, many of the leading citizens, and many officers of the law, sought to court favor with the "bad men" by closing eyes to many of the lesser crimes and brawls. But there were some who loyally and steadfastly stood for law and order, and demanded prompt and efficient enforcement of law, and speedy and adequate punishment for law-breakers.

Among those who talked most and loudest for law enforcement, and who did much to subdue the lawless element, and was one of those who were most active in originating the crusade which ultimately drove out the saloon, dance-hall and other houses of vice and iniquity, was Joseph Randall. He publicly and vigorously condemned vice and immorality in whatsoever form it was manifested; he was a pillar of the church, and, if one were to take his word for it, a righteous man and one without sin. He it was who headed the subscription list by which funds were raised to build the calaboose to which the reader is introduced in the first paragraph. And it is the irony of fate that he was the first inmate, being confined therein for seventy-two hours, awaiting a requisition from the Governor, under which he was taken back to Ohio to face trial on a charge of bigamy, of which offense he was duly convicted.

Of this and many other things connected with the old calaboose I learned from an old-timer to whom I applied for information concerning the early history of the town.

It was here, my informant told me, that Sam Howell and Bill Evans were confined while awaiting their preliminary examination on a charge of holding up an ex-



MAKING HAY WHILE THE SUN SHINES.

press wagon and killing the driver. Across the street still stands the old building in which Justice Smith held court and bound them over for trial; and yonder, a half-mile away, still stands the lone tree on which they were hanged, the populace having decided to waive the formality and expense of a trial by jury, and incidentally to guard against a possible miscarriage of justice.

It was in this selfsame prison that the eastern dude, whose name my informant had forgotten, was confined, charged with having stolen Pete Stringer's horse. In those days murder was sometimes condoned, but horse-stealing, never. And my informant related how in the dusk of evening a mob was formed for the purpose of lynching the aforesaid dude. Urged on by Pete, and emboldened by liberal potations, a crowd of about twenty armed cowboys, bad, courageous and desperate men, secured a rope and marched en masse from the Red Dragon Saloon to the calaboose, with the avowed intention of wreaking vengeance and ridding the country of "one more hoss-thief." At the door of the bastille, however, they encountered "Banta" Sims, the diminutive, bowlegged City Marshal, who had drawn a dead-line twenty feet in front of the building, and, with a six-shooter in each hand and determination in his mien, he informed the "committee" that he was the custodian of that jail and the guardian of the peace and dignity of the city; that the accused should have a fair and impartial trial by a jury of his peers, and that he, "Banta," would shoot the first "galoot" who set foot across the dead-line.

The crowd knew "Banta" and grumblingly retired,

and the case against the dude was afterwards dismissed, Pete having found his horse in a neighboring pasture, whither it had strayed.

He told me of the evening when Ike Lewis and Dan Pillsbury rode their horses into the Blue Crane Saloon and shot out the lights. Ike was arrested and thrown into the "cooler," but Dan, although the Marshal had emptied his gun at him when he refused to halt, rode away, but returned later in the night, shot the lock off the prison door, liberated his pal, and they both escaped to their ranch in No Man's Land, from which point, a few days later, Dan sent the Marshal two dollars to pay for the lock he had broken.

He told me how Mike Winters had been arrested and thrown in, for no worse crime than that of wrapping his billiard cue around the hand of an innocent bystander, and how the Marshal had forgotten to search him, and the next morning he was gone, having with his hunting-knife dug his way out beneath the walls. After this a cement floor was placed in the building, to guard against another such jail-breaking.

He related an incident of three gamblers who were arrested for plying their vocation, and sentenced each to thirty days in jail. A few days later the Mayor decided to pardon them, on condition that they would leave town. When the Marshal went to the jail to offer them this proposition, he found two of them entirely destitute of clothing. Some one had passed a deck of cards through the window, and one of the inmates had won the entire wardrobe of the other two, in a friendly game of poker, and had insisted upon an immediate delivery of the goods. When this informa-

tion was conveyed to the Mayor he promptly revoked the pardon.

He recounted a romance in which the participants were a man and a woman, convicted on the same day,—he of disorderly conduct, she of vagrancy. Both were fined, and sentenced to stand committed until fine and costs were paid. Neither party having the necessary funds, the court was in a dilemma, as the jail was not provided with suitable accommodations for lady guests. The defendants relieved the situation and solved the quandary by offering to get married. A collection was accordingly taken up, a license procured, the Justice performed the ceremony gratis, and the honeymoon was celebrated in the old calaboose.

Perhaps the saddest occurrence in the history of the old building was the fate of Jake Cowan. Jake had had trouble with a neighbor, Dave Williams, over a boundary fence; hot words and threats had passed. One morning Dave was found dead in the road a short distance from Jake's house, with a bullet in his brain. A post-mortem examination disclosed that the bullet had been fired from a 38-calibre Colt's revolver. Such a weapon was found in Jake's possession, with one empty chamber. This circumstance, together with the known enmity existing between the two men, and Jake's inability to prove an alibi, resulted in his conviction. The jury returned its verdict at midnight, and Jake was led back to the jail to await sentence. On the following morning when the jailer unlocked the door he was confronted with the lifeless body of Jake, swinging from a rafter, his feet scarcely more than three inches from the floor. The jail was furnished with sleeping-cots, the



SCENE ON FARM OF H. BRENNAMIN.

bed of which, instead of the ordinary wire spring, or canvas, consisted of rope; and of this rope the prisoner had secured a sufficient length to pass around his neck and attach to a rafter, after which he had kicked away the box on which he stood to adjust the noose, and was left suspended.

Years afterward, another man, on his deathbed, confessed to having fired the shot that killed Dave Williams, and the circumstances and particulars which he related left no doubt of his guilt. His confession, however, came too late to help poor Jake, except to clear his memory from the ignominy of crime.

In the rear of the modern building facing Main street still stands the old calaboose. The storms of many winters, the scorching suns of many summers, have left their marks upon it. Men have come and men have gone, but it still stands, mute reminder of the thrilling incidents of pioneer days. If those gray and weather-beaten walls could speak, what tales they might unfold of crime, of intrigue, of adventure, of suffering, of remorse, and of repentance. It is the one ancient landmark by which the bustling city of today is recognized as the grown-up village that marked this spot a quarter of a century ago; the one link that connects the present with the all-but-forgotten past; the "open sesame" that unlocks the door to memory's cavern and brings forth the rich treasures of early local history for the entertainment and information of the curious or reflective minds of this generation.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

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B. F. BISBEE.

B. F. Bisbee, frequently called "The Big-bellied Wheat King of Meade County," was born at Ann Arbor, Michigan, on June 22nd, 1842. He was married at Mason City, Ill., in January, 1867, to Rebecca Grisson. To this union were born six children, to wit: Carrie, Grace, Leona, William L., and Maud and Myrtie, the last two being twins.

Mr. Bisbee came to Meade County in 1887, and has ever since been engaged in farming and stock-raising.

Years ago he earned and carried the title of "Farmer Bisbee" because he was one of the very few men in Meade County who were making a success of farming at that time.

He has been Trustee of his township, and is a member of the I. O. O. F. at Meade.



M. A. BIRD AND FAMILY.

M. A. BIRD AND FAMILY.

The accompanying picture shows a cozy home view of Mark Bird and his estimable family, Mrs. Bird, and the children, Abner C., Lorene, Lillian A., Harry C., and Gladys.

Mr. Bird conducts a general merchandise store at Missler, and is also extensively engaged in handling horses and cattle.



JOHN P. BALLARD AND WIFE.

John P. Ballard was born in Logan County, Kentucky, August 7th, 1878. He came to Meade County in August, to be exact, on August 21st, 1903, and made homestead entry in Cimarron township. He was married to Anna L. Shinogle on April 19th, 1911. They have one child, Woodrow R. A. Ballard, born February 25th, 1913.

Mr. Ballard has been engaged in farming, doing a little real-estate business "on the side," and has prospered.

He is a member of the I. O. O. F. Lodge, has served his township as Trustee, and his political party as precinct Committeeman.

Anna L. Shinogle was born in Meade County, Kansas, on October 27th, 1890. She is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Shinogle.



JOHN CORDES AND FAMILY.

John Cordes was born at Cole Camp, Benton County, Missouri, on July 15th, 1867, of German parentage. He came to Meade County March 1st, 1885, and commenced life as a young pioneer on the pioneer prairies.

He was married April 16th, 1893, to Maggie Brunjes, a Meade County girl. To this union four children have been born—Alice M., Barthold H., Lola K., and Earnest J. E.

Mr. Cordes has been engaged in the business of farming and stock-raising, and is one of the substantial, prosperous farmers of Odce Township.

He has always taken a strong interest, and frequently an active part, in politics, and in 1912 was elected County Commissioner for the Second District.



"UNCLE BEN."

Benjamin F. Cox was born in what is now Platte County, Mo., but which was then unorganized Government land, on August 19th, 1837. He came to Meade County on September 3rd, 1894, and remained until about 1908, since which time he has had no settled domicile, but has spent his time in whatever place happened to strike his fancy for the time being. He has been engaged in farming, stock-raising, banking, money-lending, promoting, etc. At one time he owned one-third of the Fowler townsite. He was Vice-President of the first bank in Meade County, of the first bank in Fowler, and is now Vice-President of the Meade State Bank. He holds the first tax receipt issued in Meade County; he drove the first railroad spike in Meade County; he discovered artesian water in Meade County; and he wore out the first pair of boots made in Meade County, said boots being made by a certain bootmaker, Schwartz, of Fowler.



L. C. CASH.

L. C. Cash was born near Nolin, Kentucky, May 28th, 1861. He was married near East View, Ky., on Jan. 11th, 1883, to Katie Fife. The year following he started west in response to Horace Greeley's famous advice, and settled in Sumner County in November, 1884. In September, 1886, he moved farther west, out where the grass was a little shorter, the skies a little bluer, settling in Meade County on September 19th, 1900.

Then for five or six years he worked as head clerk in Parson's big store at Plains, but feeling the need of more outdoor life he finally resigned, and engaged in farming for four years. He then built a modern hotel in Plains, and has been engaged in the hotel business ever since. This hotel, which is one of the best arranged to be found anywhere, was designed entirely by Mr. Cash, and was for the most part built by him and his sons. It is of concrete blocks, the blocks having been manufactured by Mr. Cash in Plains.

His family consists of three sons and one grandson.



CHESTER DALGARN.

J. Chester Dalgarn was born in Meade, Kansas, July 6th, 1895,—strictly a Meade County product. He graduated from the Meade High School, after which he took a full post-graduate course. He has taught school, but the line of work he intends following, and for which he is fitting himself, is electrical engineering.



DAMON AND PYTHIAS.

The above engraving was made from a flashlight kodak picture taken of Ferol Stevens and John Sullivan, sons of their respective "dads." The young fellows decided to "sit up" until the "old fellows" returned from lodge, but the old boys proved to be the "best stayers," and on their return home found the "untried neophytes" fast asleep in each other's arms.



F. W. FICK.



LOUISE FICK.

Ferdinand W. Fick was born at Hansfelde, Prussia, March 7th, 1856. At about seven years of age his parents came to America, and Fred's boyhood and youth were spent in St. Joseph, Mo. He was married at St. Joseph, Dec. 13th, 1878, to Louise Miller, she having been born in Lonigen, Switzerland, June 8th, 1858.

Five children, four girls, one boy, are the result of this marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Fick came to Meade County March 1st, 1888, and have been engaged in the mercantile business most of the time since.

Mr. Fick has always taken a prominent part in politics; was Mayor of Meade for two terms, and for two terms Clerk of the District Court.

He takes considerable interest in fraternal orders, being an active member of the Masonic order, both the Blue Lodge and the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, of the I. O. O. F., and of the Knights of Pythias.



"CHET" HULBURT.

Chester S. Hulburt was born at El Dorado, Butler County, Kansas, January 15th, 1875. He was married to Emma J. Singley on November 30th, 1899, at Augusta, Kansas. Three children, Helen T., Helsey H. and Walter C., complete the family.

He came to Meade County February 22nd, 1903. His principal business has been farming and stock-raising, but for a year or two he was engaged in the real-estate business.

He is now, and has been for some time past, engaged in breeding registered Galloway cattle, and while others can show larger herds, it would be difficult to find a herd of "classier" cattle than those on Mr. Hulburt's farm.

He takes a great interest in educational matters, and is at present a member of the Board of Education of the Meade city schools.



"BILLY" JOBLING.

"BILLY" JOBLING.

William Jobling was born at Zanesville, Ohio, January 8th, 1864. He came to Meade County March 1st, 1879, and has been a continuous resident of the county ever since. His father was president of a company that settled a colony of sixteen families at Pearlletle. Of all of that colony Mr. Jobling is the only one remaining in Meade County, and it is probable that he is the oldest settler now in the county. He has always taken an active interest in politics, and while never soliciting political honors for himself, has frequently had such honors forced upon him. He has served his township as Clerk, Trustee, and Justice of the Peace; he has been County Commissioner from the First District, and he has been Clerk of the School Board in his district for fifteen or more years.

Fraternally he is quite prominent in the Masonic order. He is a member of Webb Lodge No. 275, A. F. & A. M., at Meade; of Meade Chapter R. A. M. No. 243; R. S. M. No. 13, Hutchinson; K. T. No. 25, Dodge City; Consistory No. 2, Wichita; and A. A. O. N. M. Shrine, Wichita.



J. O. KEITH AND FAMILY.

John O. Keith was born January 8, 1863, in Perry County, Illinois. He came to Meade County in 1894, and on September 4th, 1898, was married to Matie B. Hinsdale. To this union two children have been born, Dot, the daughter, only surviving.

Mr. Keith farmed and taught school until 1910, when he moved to Meade and engaged in the implement business, which he conducted for two years and then sold out. He has served as Clerk of the District Court, and is Clerk of the First Baptist Church.

He is quite prominent in fraternal societies, being a Past Grand of the I. O. O. F., and is at present Chief Patriarch of the Encampment branch of the Odd Fellows order.



H. H. KIRCHNER.

H. H. Kirchner was born at Worden, Douglas County, Kansas, January 5th, 1879. He was married to Della Layman at Arlington, Kansas, February 18th, 1903.

He is not an old resident of Meade County, having purchased the Gardner ranch and settled here on April 10th, 1915, but his year's residence in this county has convinced him that he has at last found just what he has been looking for, and no inducement within the limit of human probability would tempt him to leave Meade County.

He is a member of the A. F. & A. M., and of the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.



TOM MURPHY.

Thomas L. Murphy, shown above in a characteristic pose, is one of the biggest-hearted, whole-souled, most congenial Irishmen that ever escaped from Cork, and how or why they ever permitted Tom to escape is a mystery.

He was born at Springfield, Ill., August 29th, 1858. He removed to Kansas, and on January 30th, 1888, was married to Effa Cool, at Columbus. They are now the parents of seven children.

Tom came to Meade County on January 11th, 1904, being one among the old "new settlers."

He is engaged in farming and stock-raising, and is well satisfied and prosperous.



R. M. PAINTER.

R. M. Painter was born in the State of Iowa, a long time ago. He came to Meade County in the fall of 1884, and filed on a homestead, where he resided until 1915, when he left the farm,—or *farms*, it might be more accurate to state, as he owns something less than half a township,—and came to Meade, where he opened a law office.

"Cap," as he is usually called, has had a varied career, at different times following different vocations. He has had experience in the law, newspaper work, the army, the legislature, and while he has never made politics a business he has always been actively interested.

He was the first Representative of Meade County, the first Post Commander of the local G. A. R., for several years President of the Southwestern Veterans' Association, and is now Department Commander of the G. A. R. of Kansas.



J. S. PRICE.

John Shelby Price was born at Kenton, Ohio, April 4th, 1874. He came to Meade County in the spring of 1887. He was married to Susan Winnifred Bonham, August 19th, 1907. To this union two children were born, Frances Evelyn, now aged 6, and Shelby Winfred, aged 2.

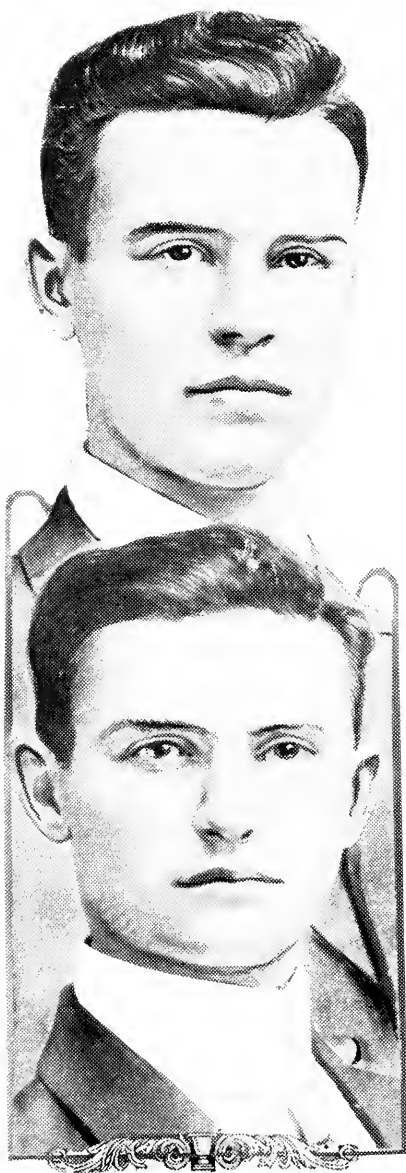
With the exception of four years during which time he was sheriff of Meade County, Mr. Price has been engaged in the livestock business.



MRS. J. S. PRICE.

Susan Winnifred Bonham was born in Hardin County, Ohio, April 27th, 1876. She came to Meade County with her parents in 1885, where she resided until her death, March 6th, 1914.

She was elected Register of Deeds in 1900, and served two terms.



PERRY BROS.

Editors and Proprietors of *The Fowler News* and *The Bucklin Banner*.



A. B. ROBERTS.

Albert B. Roberts was born at Richmond, Indiana. He was married at Lynn, Indiana, August 15th, 1880, to Lizzie S. Johnson, and came to Meade County November 6th, 1895.

He has three children, Walter J., Adgar N., and Alice M.

He has been engaged in farming, and is now serving his second term as County Commissioner from the First District.



BERT STOUT.

Bert Stout was born at Logansport, Indiana, September 4th, 1884. He came to Meade County in 1908, and settled in Mertilla Township, where he is engaged in farming.



G. W. ROBERTS.

G. W. Roberts was born on February 23rd, 1856, in Grant County, Wisconsin. He came to southwest Kansas in 1900, first locating in Pawnee County, coming to Meade County in the spring of 1913. He was married to Miss L. M. Hockett in January, 1903, and is the father of six children.

Mr. Roberts has been engaged in farming, and has the distinction of never having experienced a failure of his wheat crop in southwest Kansas. His lowest average yield per acre for any year is 10 bushels, the highest being 33 bushels.



J. I. STAMPER.

J. I. Stamper (Col. Jim) was born at Sweetwater, Tenn., December 22nd, 1869. He came to Meade County in May, 1885. He was married at Meade, December 25th, 1900, to Lottie W. Snyder. They have one child, a daughter, Jamie, born in Meade.

Jim has been rather versatile in his pursuits, having been at different times engaged in farming and stock-raising, well-drilling, has taken a flyer in the mercantile business, was postmaster at Meade under President Taft, but for several years last past he has devoted the greater part of his time to auctioneering, at which calling he has met with remarkable success.

He is now President of the State Auctioneers' Association.

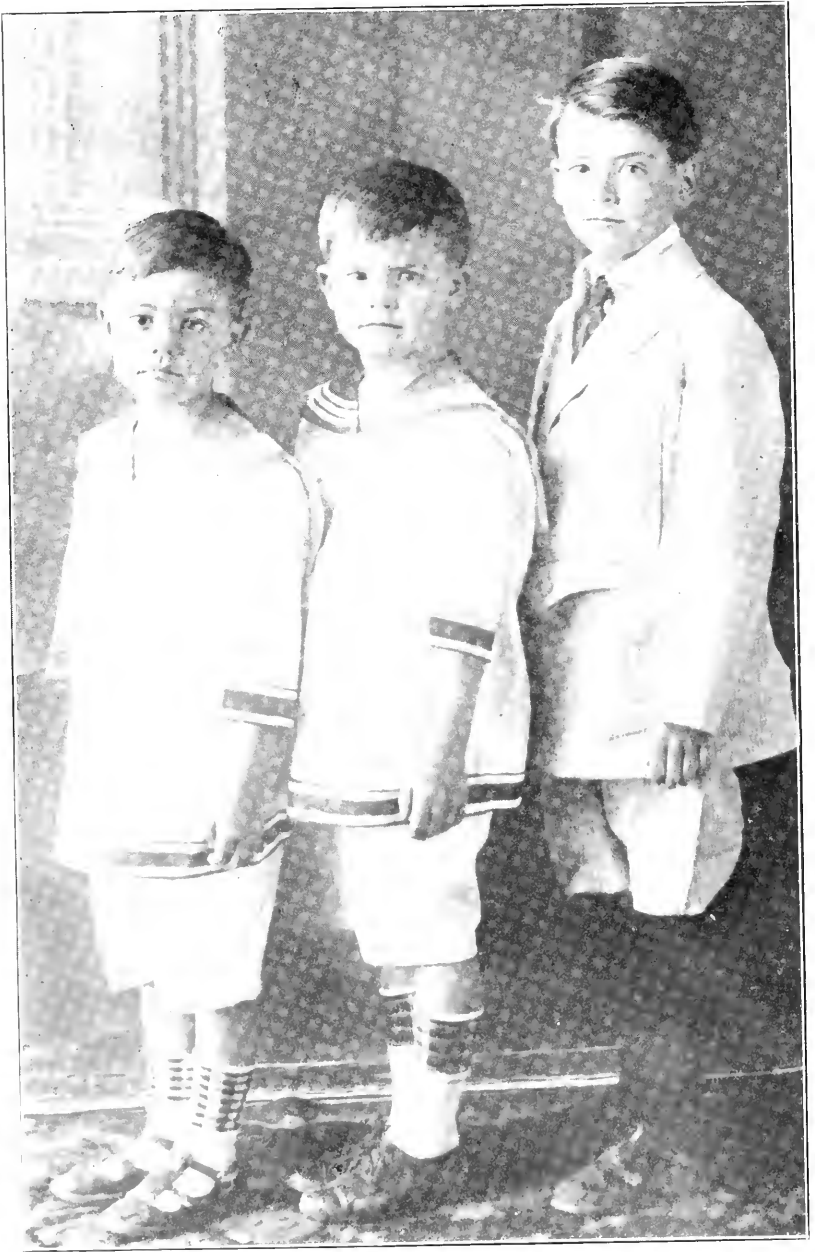


WILLIS WOLFE.

Willis Wolfe was born at Wheeling, Missouri, February 5th, 1888. He was married at Wheeling, Mo., October 5th, 1910, to Lulu Mae Norman, and came to Meade County in March, 1911.

Two boys, Leonard M. and Norman B., have come to brighten their Meade County home.

Mr. Wolfe has been engaged principally in the cattle business, but as a side line he sells automobiles and Fords.



THREE SCHUHMACHERS.

THREE SCHULMACHERS.

L. F. Schulmacher was born September 5th, 1882, at Mexico, Missouri. He early realized the possibilities of Meade County, and emigrated here in 1886. He was married at Meade February 21st, 1907, to Maude Stansill.

Their three boys, L. F., Jr., Nelson R. and Gordon S., are shown in the above picture.

Mr. Schulmacher has been engaged in the real-estate business at Meade for the last ten years.

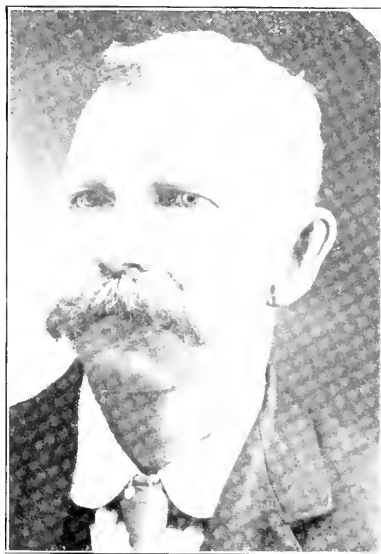


O. R. STEVENS.

O. R. Stevens was born in Pottawatomie County, Kansas, March 22nd, 1879. He was married in Barber County, Kansas, November 19th, 1902, to Miss Tressie Grigsby. A son, Ferol Clifford, was born at Coats, Kansas, August 16th, 1905.

Mr. Stevens came to Meade County April 30th, 1906, and was engaged in the mercantile business at Meade until September, 1914, when he removed to Wichita.

Mr. Stevens is one of the prominent fraternalists of the State. He was Department Commander of Patriarchs Militant from January 1st, 1908, to January 1st, 1913, with the rank of Brigadier-General, and is the present Grand Patriarch of the Grand Encampment of Kansas, being elected to that office October 12th, 1915. He is also a member of the Judiciary Committee of the Grand Lodge, Knights of Pythias, of Kansas.



C. A. UNDERWOOD.

Chas. A. Underwood was born in Logan Co , Ohio, March 19th, 1860. He came to Meade County in 1905, where he took a homestead and engaged in farming, which occupation he has followed ever since.

He was married at Meade on April 18th, 1907, to Margaret K. Nichols.

He is a member of the I. O. O. F., the Knights of the Golden Eagle, and was formerly a member of Co. E, Ohio National Guard.



MRS. C. A. UNDERWOOD.

Margaret K. Nichols was born in Logan County, Ohio, in 1866. She was appointed postmistress of New Jerusalem, Ohio, by President Cleveland, which office she conducted for eleven years. She also conducted a grocery store at that place.

On April 18, 1907, in Meade, Kansas, she became the wife of Charles A. Underwood.



MORTON WILSON.



MRS. MORTON WILSON.

Morton Wilson was born in Appanoose County, Iowa, February 3rd, 1865. He was married in Meade County October 30th, 1892, to Jennie C. Heape.

Mrs. Wilson came to Meade County in March, 1885, Mr. Wilson coming in May of the same year.

They were engaged in farming and stock-raising until 1915, when they retired and moved to Meade.

They have two daughters, Ethel and Marie, both at home.



M. M. WAY.

Marion M. Way was born in McPherson County, Kansas, Jan 27th, 1876. He came to Meade County March 12th, 1900, and was married October 16th, 1901, to Rosetta F. Bunyan. He has one child, a boy nine years of age.

Mr. Way has been engaged in farming and stock-raising. He has served his township and school district in various offices.

He is a member of the Masonic order.



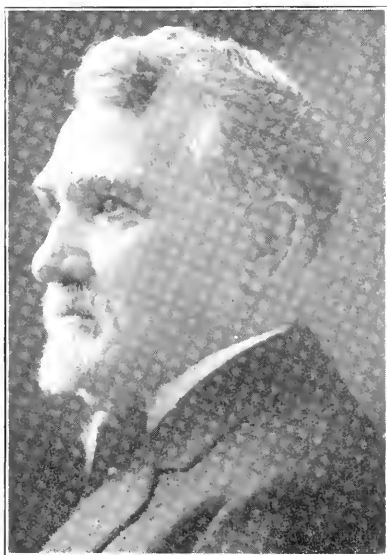
D. P. WYSONG.

D. P. Wysong was born at Lynville, Franklin County, Va., January 16th, 1851. He was married at Stewartsville, Bedford County, Va., April 6th, 1876, to Dora Stewart. Two sons were born, James T. and Ansel S.

He came to Meade County March 25th, 1885, and, like many of the other early settlers, has been engaged in several different lines of work, among which are teaching, contracting, farming, and the practice of law.

Mr. Wysong has served his county as County Superintendent, County Clerk, and County Attorney.

The above picture shows him with his grandson, Stewart, son of Ansel S. Wysong.



R. E. STEELE.

R. E. STEELE.

R. E. Steele was born in 1850, and reared in Prince William County, Va. In 1874 he came west, locating in Douglas County, Kansas. In 1878 he removed to Barber County, and came to Meade County in 1892.

He was married in Meade County to Miss Jennie W. Mills. Two children were born, both girls, and both of whom are married, one to Mr. Eustace Smith, a prominent young lawyer of Hutchinson, and one to Mr. E. W. McNaghten, also of Hutchinson.

Mrs. Steele died in 1907, and afterwards Mr. Steele was united in marriage with Miss Curtis Harsha, of Pittsburgh, Pa.

Mr. Steele has been engaged in the cattle business practically all of his life, and has probably handled more cattle than any other Meade County citizen. The names, Steele & Cockins, Cockins & Steele, The Meade Land & Cattle Co., the Crooked L Ranch, are familiar to everyone. While Mr. Steele has been interested in many ranch propositions, the Crooked L, located about three miles south of Meade, is his best-known venture. This ranch, while not extensive in acreage, is one of the best little ranches in the State. Here is to be found several hundred acres of alfalfa under a good system of irrigation, and here is produced the feed that fattens several thousand of the Crooked L brand yearly.



FRANK SOURBEER AND FAMILY.

FRANK SOURBEER AND FAMILY.

Franklin Sourbeer was born in Lancaster County, Pa., Nov. 19th, 1838. He was married to Annie M. Kessler at Harrisburg, Pa. Mr. Sourbeer is one of the earliest settlers, locating in Meade County June 30th, 1879. His principal business was farming, up until a few years ago, when he retired and moved to Meade. For six years he has been one of the magistrates of Meade Center Township.

Mr. Sourbeer enlisted in June, 1861, in Co. D of the First Pennsylvania Volunteer Reserve Corps. He was wounded at the second battle of Bull Run, August 29th, 1862. In 1863 he was made Captain of Co. H, Fiftieth Pennsylvania Volunteer Militia. He served as Second Sergeant in Co. K, Two Hundred Third Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry.



THE MEADE CHECKER CLUB.

THE MEADE CHECKER CLUB.

The Meade Checker Club, which claims to be invincible and is always ready to prove its claims, is composed of the following business men: from left to right, top row, E. W. Fletcher, Dr. T. E. Henry, Dick Collins, C. M. Gates, Jay Ellis, John Wood; bottom row, Isaac Covalt, N. M. Ellis, Harry Hoon, E. W. Bocook.



DON T. EDWARDS, THE PIONEER LAND MAN.



A. JACK BYRNS.



A. J. PADON.



J. H. ELLIS.

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M'ADGE.

KATHLEEN.

LENORE.

JOHN P.



"THE MISSUS."



"ME."

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